Midd WINTER/SPRING 2025

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THE PATTON YEARS

Rebecca Kneale Gould, Bill McKibben, Jay Parini, and others reflect on Middlebury's 17th president

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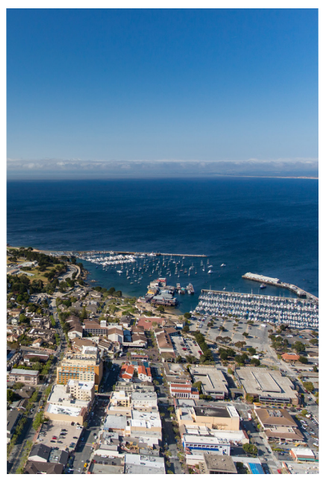
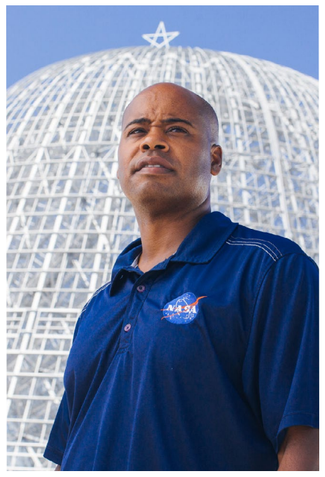

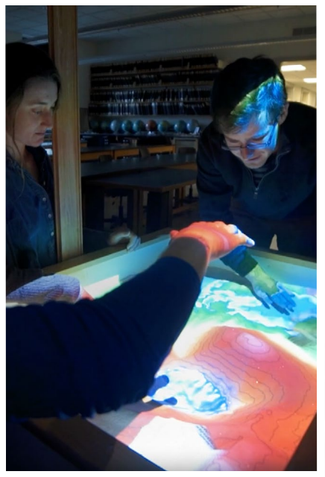

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FUTURE FEAR

The three virus-shaped sculptures in Luke Jerram's *Past, Present, Future (Smallpox, HIV, Untitled Future Mutation)* found their way to the Museum of Art through an unconventional channel: the Biology Department. Professor Erin Eggleston worked with Museum of Art director Richard Saunders to acquire the triptych with the intention that it play a role across disciplines at the College. For her students, the work served as a visual aid that allowed them to see a virus's physical properties in three dimensions, at a workable scale. For professors in other departments, she invited them to incorporate the sculpture into their own curricula; for example, in the study of medical humanities or the economics and history of disease and populations.

In 2024, the piece went on display in the museum's fall exhibition, *An Invitation to Awe*, opening it up to a larger audience. We often associate the word *awe* with the overwhelming feelings of beauty, wonder, and fear we experience when faced with things too vast for our comprehension—like the soaring granite face of El Capitan or the infinite night sky. But the exhibition encouraged visitors to look in other directions, too—in the case of *Past, Present, Future,* down to the submicroscopic level. Museumgoers were able to contemplate the appearance of organisms, thousands of times magnified, that have wrought devastation on human populations over centuries but were too small to be visualized until the invention of the scanning electron microscope.

Perhaps the greatest feeling of awe—here, in the sense of terror—is provoked by the rightmost sculpture of the three: "Untitled Future Mutation." Though its spiky surface recalls that of SARS-CoV-2, this isn't a known virus; it is instead the artist's idea of what the next insidious virus might look like, a placeholder for the inevitable. The glowing shape stirs emotions related to both the past and the future, recalling the COVID pandemic and serving as a reminder—a memento mori of sorts—of what will someday come. —JR

IMAGES OF LUKE JERRAM'S GLASS VIRUS SCULPTURES CAN BE WIDELY FOUND IN NEWS STORIES, MEDICAL JOURNALS, AND TEXTBOOKS.

PHOTOGRAPHER JONATHAN BLAKE

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Constants and Change

The above illustration originally appeared in the 1891 edition of the *Middlebury Kaleidoscope*, the school's yearbook. It's titled "Baseball in the Snow," and the artist is identified only by the name "JACKSON" on the fencepost.

I was thinking about this sketch in late February when I saw a post on social media noting that the starts of both the Panthers' baseball and softball seasons were days away; outside there was still more than a foot of snow on the ground.

Of course, both Panther squads have been practicing for weeks—within the cozy confines of Virtue Field House. And a glimpse at each of their schedules reveals early games in Georgia, California, and Florida, so the chances of a player mistaking a snowball for a baseball or softball are slim.

Still, the 19th-century cartoon juxtaposed with a 21st-century scene reveals a lot about this place, where constants and change are intertwined. It's the time of year in Vermont where we will have a blizzard one week and 50-degree days the next, winter melting into spring and back again.

As you'll see in this issue—the *winter/spring* issue—we reflect upon Laurie Patton, our 17th president (p. 34), who has concluded her tenure at Midd, while announcing the appointment of her successor, Ian Baucom (p. 19). In a conversation posted to Middlebury's YouTube channel, Baucom spoke extensively about the importance of the liberal arts ("The liberal arts at their core are the art and the possibility of what it means to be a free human being, and to take on the responsibility to think what the greater freedom of the world could be") with an emphasis on meeting "the most urgent challenges of our time" by, in part, embracing "the future of research and teaching as we seek to balance the vitality of enduring disciplines and emerging inter-disciplines."

Constants and change. — MJ

Midd

WINTER/SPRING 2025
VOLUME 95, ISSUE 1

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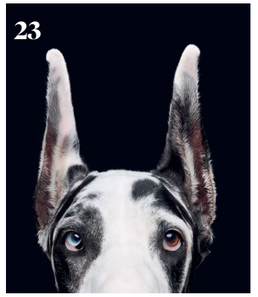

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

COREY ARNOLD
“Consider the Sea Otter”
An award-winning photographer, Arnold has contributed to the likes of *The New Yorker, National Geographic, The New York Times,* and *Outside.*

RYAN MELGAR
“The Patton Years”
Wired, Esquire, and *Bloomberg Markets* are among the publications that have featured Melgar’s portrait illustrations; *The New York Times* named his depiction of Tyler Perry one of the best illustrations of 2019.

FREDERICK REIMERS ’93
“On Parenting”
A writer and editor with bylines in *Smithsonian, Outside,* and *Ski*, Reimers plies his trade in Jackson, Wyoming.

LINDSEY SPOOR, MA FRENCH ’08
“Shear Madness”
The owner of Stilly River Yarns, Spoor admits that learning to shear sheep had never been part of her plans. Until now.

ON THE COVER ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN MELGAR

ILLUSTRATED HEADSHOTS BY KATHRYN RATHKE

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OF NOTE
Midd
SUMMER 2024
VOLUME 94, ISSUE 4
Remembering Ted Perry
ILLUSTRATION BY HSIAO-RON CHENG

In Memoriam

I just opened my summer issue of the magazine and saw Matt Jennings's tribute to Ted Perry ("Remembering Ted Perry," summer 2024). It was so heartfelt and captured the warm memories I had of him, too. He was my freshman seminar teacher, and I will never forget going to his office during orientation for our required meeting. I had come to Middlebury from LA and hadn't expected how extreme the culture shock would be, or how lonely I would feel, or how I would miss my mom. With all those emotions swirling, Ted asked, "How is it going? Did your parents leave?" Much to my embarrassment and horror, I burst into tears. ¶ Maybe subconsciously I knew his office was a safe place to fall apart. His eyes softened and he asked what was wrong. All I could get out was that I hadn't had anyone to eat dinner with the previous night. He immediately invited me to his house for dinner. I will never forget that kind impulse. I didn't take him up on it, but he made me feel less anonymous and alone that day, which is what I needed to dust myself off and get back out there. ¶ Thank you so much for sharing such a beautiful tribute to a radically cool, smart, steady, and kind teacher, and letting me share my own memories with you.

—NELL CROSS BECKERMAN '95, *CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA*

In Memoriam, Part II

I just received my alumni magazine with your article about Ted Perry. In 1982, Ted was kind enough to cast me as the Marquis de Sade in the play *Marat/Sade*. I had been a part of the theater program at Middlebury for most of my time in school, and I was truly honored to be a part of his production. It was a commitment for both the winter semester and the spring semester. Ted encouraged us to research our characters thoroughly. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed with historical facts. In his typically magnanimous fashion, he took the entire cast to Mister Up's for dinner one night. I, in my sorrowfully drunken cups, stole a cake from the dessert table on the way out the door. The next day at rehearsal, Ted, in a most quiet way, said, "I paid for the cake." I have, perhaps, never felt so beholden to any individual, who remained gracious throughout the entire episode. I also never again wore pink ribbons in my beard as he directed!

Ted was, in my mind, the picture of a calm, resolute individual undaunted by local politics who did as he wished to bring out the best in us all. Thank you for your tribute to a wonderful man.

—BILL JOYCE '82,
SANDY CREEK, NEW YORK

Further Consequences

Matt Jennings's tribute to Ted Perry ("Remembering Ted Perry," summer 2024) is dead-letter perfect. I first became acquainted with Ted when I was an undergraduate at the University of Texas, and he was a faculty member in the department of radio, television, and film. (Though I never took a class from Ted at UT, he was a very apparent figure in the department.) When he moved on to NYU, I had occasion to have dinner with him and Miriam at their downtown apartment. And while I was finishing up my MA in French at Middlebury, Ted offered words of encouragement when the required linguistics course nearly did me in.

The news of his death has called for at least a few hours of quiet and reflection. (I am still recovering from the loss of Daniel Jourlait, our beloved head of the French school. Pretty sure Middlebury attracts the very best faculty!) Thank you for sharing this news in the most thoughtful manner.

— CYNTHIA CRUMLISH, MA FRENCH '88, *PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA*

In Memoriam IV

I was sorry to read about Professor Ted Perry's passing in the recent *Midd Magazine*. I've been meaning to write for some time to say that Ted Perry shifted my worldview in profound ways with his introductory film class that I took in 1982. It was one of my favorite classes.

Ted was an iconoclast and fully embraced difficult topics. One of the first films he screened was *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. We quickly got deep in talking about attraction and repulsion. That was followed by dissecting the films by Godard, Antonioni, Fellini, and Hitchcock, to name a few. I remember him addressing issues of race and gender head on, and how underrepresented women and minorities were in film.

He made me a film buff for life and paved the way for ruining my enjoyment of popular culture (graduate school sealed the deal). I passed my interest in film onto my children and showed them at an early age Hitchcock's *Rear Window* and Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane*. My now-adult children are only beginning to thank me because when they were, say, nine or 10 they really just wanted to watch what their friends were watching—although it was about this time that my daughter started to make films with her friends.

So, hats off to Ted for the great film education, which I am still building on, thanks to Criterion Channel. I think I should have been a film major, but the idea seemed too frivolous in the early '80s, even at a liberal arts institution. The tools and theories of filmmaking that Ted taught linger on, like the essential "phi phenomenon" (look it up), and maybe in some way led to my decision to become a photographer (a major that didn't exist at Middlebury in the early '80s). I don't think I ever saw Ted again after Film 117, but in writing this, I'm moved by how one class and one professor can alter one's notions of truth and reality.

— SARAH PRUD'HOMME '85.5, *BROOKLYN, NEW YORK*

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A Bit More to the Story

As former Middlebury Lady Pranksters, we were thrilled to read the article "No Joke" (summer 2024) about the dominant and decorated Middlebury women's Ultimate team. It's reassuring to read how competitiveness on the field and community building (and goofy antics) off the field are still integrated into the team's culture, including the close relationship with the men's team.

However, our poor egos felt a small sting when we noticed our Division-I Nationals appearance was left out of the team's history. At 2015 Regionals, MLP upset the favorite, Tufts University, to steal the second bid to D-I Nationals from the New England region. At Nationals, our biggest achievement was getting the W over University of Washington, a program that went to Nationals annually and fully expected to bulldoze over Midd.

Luckily, the Frisbee fun didn't stop when we graduated. One of our MLP teammates, Erin Rea '16, just won gold with Team USA at the World Ultimate Championships in Australia this past September. Others have continued to play in adult leagues, competing at Club Nationals with teams from Boston to San Francisco.

For most of us though, our glory days were with the Pranksters.

— CLARA GOTTESMAN HAGE '15, *NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA*

The above letter was cosigned by Aly Fassett-Carman '15, Hayden Shea '15.5, Natalie Valentin '15, and Grace Benz '15.

Kudos!

I absolutely loved reading Caroline Crawford's magazine story on the Pranksters ("No Joke," summer 2024)! Her writing style really let the story flow! And it's fantastic that the Middlebury Lady Pranksters are the center of the action; it's a story that needed telling for sure. The double page photo of the MLP ready for a pull says it all, too!

—MIKE PEARSON '80, *EAST CALAIS, VERMONT*

Cartoon Magic

I do not know whose idea it was to create a cartoon for the magazine about the building of the 1974 tree house ("Up a Tree," summer 2024); whoever it was, I need to thank them. I have received a number of emails from people saying they were happily surprised to open up the recent *Midd Magazine* and see the cartoon.

Mark Alan Stamaty's story is brilliant—and quite accurate as to the story of the structure's genesis. His storytelling and the beauty of the drawing are truly extraordinary. I particularly loved the depiction of the "tree house five." He made us all look like clean-cut graduates of elite prep schools (come to think of it, three out of five of us were). Over time, there was definitely more facial hair (on my part) and, let's say, less traditional haircuts.

—DAN FLANAGAN '74, *VERGENNES, VERMONT*

In Praise of Print

In response to Ken Carlton's comment (Talk, summer 2024) that a return to the print edition is "not exactly a carbon trade-off," I'd like to point out that the computer version generates seven times the carbon footprint than that of the paper. Since I do not own a computer, I am grateful for the print edition.

—REGINALD HEFNER, MA ARABIC '15, *CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA*

With Appreciation

As an editor for most of my 87 years, I've been remiss in not writing to thank you for the consistent high quality of *Middlebury Magazine*'s editorial content. The return of the print edition prompts me to do so. I must also mention the design, which is lovely and distinctive without intruding on the editorial or making stories difficult to read.

—ED FERMAN '58, *WEST CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT*

Letters Policy

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity and clarity. On any given subject, we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to Midd Magazine, 2 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

Midd Classifieds

Cottage Rental on Lake Dunmore—Ideally located on the northeast shore of Lake Dunmore at the base of Mt. Moosalamoo, this lovely cottage has two bedrooms and two bathrooms, full kitchen, comfortable living room, spacious outdoor deck, boathouse, dock, and gorgeous waterfront for swimming and boating. Close to the Falls of Lana, Silver Lake, and Branbury State Park. Long-term rentals preferred, minimum two-week stay. For more information, contact Pete Hare at peterhare3@gmail.com.

Lakefront Property—Serena Furman '79 is selling a generations-owned 0.6-acre parcel with 100' of lakefront on Long Pond, Willsboro, N.Y. 14 minutes from the Essex Ferry. $95,000. Inquiries should be directed to agent Michelle Fowler, 518-726-6665 or michellesellshomesny@gmail.com.

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UP FRONT

A TOUR AROUND THE MIDDLEBURY CONSTELLATION

37 Minutes with Lorraine Besser

The professor and philosopher talks about the three elements of the "good life"—especially the one happiness culture overlooks.

IN HER NEW BOOK, *The Art of the Interesting: What We Miss in Our Pursuit of the Good Life and How to Cultivate It,* philosophy professor Lorraine Besser looks at how novel and challenging experiences are critical in bringing the elusive "good life" within reach. Jessie Raymond '90 talked with Besser this past fall.

MIDD MAGAZINE: What prompted you to write about the idea of the "good life"?
LORRAINE BESSER: Five or six years ago, I started working on this research project in collaboration with a psychologist. And we thought that there was something missing from all the discussions of the good life, something beyond being happy and finding meaning in what you do. We set

PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVER PARINI

out to explore this area of psychologically rich experiences—those that tend to be novel, complex, challenging. They hit our minds in a certain way and allow us to have unstructured thoughts and emotions that aren't typically accessed when we're in our day-to-day. The "interesting" in *The Art of the Interesting* describes how these psychologically rich experiences feel.

MM: So, are interesting experiences the secret to the good life?
LB: They're part of it. Think of the good life as a three-legged stool, where the legs are happiness (from pleasurable experiences, having fun), meaning (from things that give us purpose, like pursuing a career or raising a family), and psychological richness, which grows out of interesting experiences. These are important parts of all our lives, no matter who we are. We're very tapped into happiness and meaning, but I don't think we're getting to the goal, because for a lot of people, something's missing.

MM: Do you think it's common for people to feel that way?
LB: I think a lot of people get stuck in this kind of scene of working during the weekdays and then just recovering on the weekends. Whether or not they come to the realization that there might be more, or that this is not a fully robust way of living, is something else.

MM: Have you been guilty of this?
LB: I'm a professor. I can go very single-mindedly into writing a book, focusing on my teaching, doing something. I'm trying to learn to break out of that and tell myself, This is going to leave you really impoverished at the end of the day. But sometimes it's like, No, I've just got to get there. I'm working on the skill of learning and recognizing that I can do more and that I need more, that there are three legs to the good life stool, not just the meaning part. Which leg is most important is different for everyone, but we still need the other two.

MM: "Doing interesting things" sounds easy enough, when you have the time and things are going well. But what about when everything is going wrong?
LB: The challenges are the moments of panic where it just feels like things are too much. One of the lessons that we can learn is how to approach these situations differently. You can train your mind, even through little difficulties, to notice things outside of you without bringing in all that evaluation and doom and just give yourself the moment. You're not denying what is happening, but you're giving yourself the space to recognize that there's a different way of approaching these challenges other than seeing them as bad.

One of the important and affirming aspects of our research is that it shows that these complicated situations and painful feelings can be part of a good life. We don't have to hide our traumatic experiences or run from complex feelings.

MM: Are some people, just by nature, more inclined to sort of roll with punches than others?
LB: We're all coming from different points. One of the things you want to do is learn who you are, how reactive you are, and how you approach challenges and the ways in which they negatively affect you—and especially to know what you do in the face of challenge, in the face of stress, in the face of something new. These are just pieces of information that we need in order to figure out how to have more interesting experiences.

MM: Has your view of the good life been affected by your own experience?
LB: Yes. This goes back to when I was first thinking about this research, and I had gone through a period of my life where it had been very much defined by this "work hard, rest hard" mentality. I had tenure, I had a new book, I had a failed marriage. The impact of going through a divorce and having one stage of your life clearly ending is that that forces you to reflect on how that stage had been going for you, and how you want your life in the future to be going for you. With the combination of work and all the adulting and having kids, your sense of self can get kind of buried, and you can forget what makes you passionate about what you care about.

I'm very passionate about my job and I love what I do. I love my students. I love my research. But there's a lot of other things I like to do, too. During a divorce, a lot of people think, *What did I used to do? I was like, I just love water; I used to love sailing.* And then I started prioritizing more of that time in my life. I was like, *All right, why can't I sail now? I'm close to water, I can do these things.* Just sparking into your passions, that's the way to do it, to really think about what you're passionate about and give space to those things.

I met my new husband and started dating him around the time I was figuring this stuff out, and he was just such an interesting person for me. He was so spontaneous. His approach to life taught me a lot about how to have interesting experiences. And it also taught me the importance of really bringing yourself and what you're passionate about to your life.

MM: In the book, you talk about how we wouldn't want life to be an endless pleasure machine—
LB: So boring.

MM: Which suggests that to have a good life is not to have a constantly enjoyable life, right?
LB: Right. I worry about the messages being sent that everything's about happiness; life is just not like that. We can't always feel happy. We will not always be able to successfully find meaning. And we need to recognize that challenges and painful emotions are simply part of life; they don't prevent you from having a good life. Otherwise, you'll feel so doomed when these bad things happen, like your chances for living a good life are sunk. It's just not true.

MM: You say not everyone is open to new experiences, but they should try to be. Why?
LB: More openness to novel experiences is going to lead to more psychological richness. So, it's worthwhile to try to see where you can move on this spectrum. And you do that simply by trying challenging things.

MM: Like jumping out of a plane?
LB: Not necessarily. Everyone's idea of "challenging" is different. I knew someone who, as an adult, was eating grilled cheese all the time, and still had very narrow eating habits, so for them it was simply forcing themselves to eat something different. It's these little things. Don't feel like if you are a person with relatively low openness to novel experiences that they aren't available to you. Simply by doing small things that help you develop more openness, you give yourself the opportunity for more experiences, more psychological richness.

MM: The book's subtitle uses the word "cultivate" in relation to the "good life." Why "cultivate" rather than "attain" or "achieve"?
LB: It's an ongoing skill. I'm thinking about ways we can bring our minds to experiences that will help them become more interesting, something as simple as actively observing what's around you when you're walking or commuting. The research shows that these are little moments that are easy to get, and that over time they have an important cumulative effect. And what they lead toward is a more expanded sense of self.

MM: You discuss how you can find psychological richness through friendships, but also through solitude.
LB: Relationships and connections are important to so many aspects of life. But being able to develop some comfort with solitude is also very important. Interesting experiences happen in your mind, and they happen most freely when you're just following your instincts about where to go and where to explore. While it can be helpful to have somebody else along for the ride, you don't need it. And the more that you can develop a comfort with solitude, the more you can practice the art of the interesting within solitude.

MM: You devote a whole chapter to the importance of friends, but not just any friends—interesting friends.
LB: Yes, because you can learn through them. More interesting people generate interesting experiences for you. You can also learn a lot from how they live and how they go about their experiences. You can take that skill from them and learn from them to adopt it for yourself.

MM: I keep finding that when I meet people who I don't expect to find a connection with, we always seem to find a common interest or a bit of personal history. I love that.
LB: The thing about people is that they're never just what they present. Interesting experiences arise from complexity and novelty, and people are complex. So when you sit down to talk with somebody, especially somebody new, you'll be learning new things, and that's a source of interest.

MM: How do you meet interesting people?
LB: Could be your coworkers. Even if you think you've known them because you've worked beside them in casual office spaces, you can, by having a conversation outside of that space, uncover the layers of this person. I also affirm this idea of having more interesting social events. One of my favorite sections in the book is how to have better parties. When we make an effort to be more creative and bring people together and have a theme or play games, it really helps enrich our lives.

MM: What is it that keeps some people from pursuing the things they love? Do they feel like they're too busy, that they don't deserve it, or maybe that society expects something different from them?
LB: I think it's just so easy to get anchored to your circumstances. It's tempting to think we don't have time for things, that we don't have time to improve our lives, that we have to make big changes or have resources. None of these things are as true as we think. There is room for challenging, novel, engaging thoughts and activities, and you can have them all and live a better life.

MM: What do you tell someone who is feeling stuck in their current situation? They've read all the books and listened to all the podcasts, but they feel like they're just plodding along and never getting closer to the good life, whatever they might imagine that to look like.
LB: Don't forget that you're the one who's living out this life. We're really good at executive functioning; we can plan and set goals and all of that great stuff, but that's really only one aspect of our mind. Instead of only thinking about what we want and how to get it, I want to encourage folks to think about who they want to be. M

ILLUSTRATION BY KEITH NEGLEY

On Parenting

Caitlin McCormick Murray '05 has some thoughts on what it means to be a good mom.

BY FREDERICK REIMERS '93

Caitlin McCormick Murray '05 has built one of the most popular parenting accounts on social media—not by posting camera-ready bento box lunches or filming adorable toddler enrichment activities, but rather by railing against those who do. "Just knock it off," she says in one video posted to her social media account, Big Time Adulting. "I'd literally rather hear you describe your journey with irritable bowel syndrome than see another photo of you at sunset with your family in matching outfits. Give me something real, for the love of Goldfish-crusted car mats."

Murray is clearly not alone in her interest in an uproarious, unfiltered look at parenting, because the mother of three kids (aged 10, 8, and 5) has amassed a following of more than 1.5 million on Instagram. That figure lands her in the highest tier of social media personalities, categorized by some experts as "mega influencers," on par with celebrities like Jennifer Garner (1.7 million) and Bill Burr (2.4 million), both of whom follow Murray on the platform. She's done it by ranting about the most exhausting, exasperating, and bewildering aspects of parenthood, from the physical changes a mother experiences after giving birth to the shameless defiance of three-year-olds. "If anyone else treated me the way my toddler treats me, I'd probably have a restraining order by now," she says in one video viewed more than 5.3 million times.

She is able to put into words the frustrations that most parents have experienced but are unwilling to say out loud, and those jokes are particularly cathartic for parents of young kids because of how isolating raising babies and toddlers can be. Murray's posts range from warnings to those who are considering having kids to solo dance routines

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JUSTIN PATTERSON

CAITLIN MURRAY

RECOMMENDS

Podcasts to help you keep your sanity while you're Big Time Adulting

Raising Good Humans
ALIZA PRESSMAN

She keeps it real, is whip-smart, and defuses angst really well.

Beyond the Self
AFRICA BROOKE

Beautifully encourages people to be themselves and break free of censorship.

Unlocking Us
BRENÉ BROWN

To fill that self-introspection bucket.

she improvises for the camera, overlaid by voiceovers like "It's a known fact that shaking your ass in your kitchen as hard as you can lifts your spirits out of a seasonally depressed funk for at least five minutes." At less than a minute long, her videos are easier to consume than a parenting book when one is nursing a baby or finding refuge for four minutes alone in the bathroom.

One reason Murray's followers seem particularly fervent is because of her compassionate messages for parents. She ends many of her posts with her signature catchphrase, "Get yourself a snack," poking at the camera lens with each word for emphasis. It's a reminder, she says, "that moms are always taking care of everyone else, but that we need to take care of ourselves too."

Her most popular post (with more than 33 million views) is a pro tip for struggling mothers: "When you are on the verge of a mental breakdown, when nothing is working," she says, looking both exhausted and empathetic, "take a second, exit the room . . . and strongly consider leaving your family." A beat later she says, "Let it bring you to tears, because you'd be frigging miserable without them, and then get back in there and resume the role of CEO of those little dickheads. You got this."

More than 544,000 people shared the video. A further 12,800 responded with comments like "You're an essential vitamin in woman form," along with a truly heart-wrenching one: "I've recently become a single mom after my husband passed away. On the days when I feel like it's too much, you seem to post something that makes me laugh and take a deep breath."

Murray's compassion for her audience derives from her own travails with parenting. When her eldest child, Callum, turned three, on the day after Christmas, he was diagnosed with leukemia. After four anguishing years of treatments, he was cleared of the disease, and Murray says the experience freed her from the sometimes-crippling self-judgment parents feel. It also shut off her filter. Murray routinely jokes about her own kids being "sociopaths" and "gaslighting" her. She tells her followers it's OK if they let the gentle parenting practice slip sometimes when they have "a roomful of kids acting like cats on cocaine. Sometimes you just have to yell at them to knock it off."

"I feel like people might give my jokes a little more grace knowing that I'd been through something so horrible," she says. Looking at the volume of her positive audience response, it appears she is right. "I swear to God, my horrible postpartum depression disappears at least for a few moments when I watch one of your videos," wrote a viewer.

Callum's leukemia is also what literally launched Murray's media career. At the time of his diagnosis, she was working as a fundraiser for a private K–12 school in Manhattan, but the frequent emails she wrote to friends and family updating them on Callum's progress soon turned into a blog. She named it Big Time Adulting, an over-the-top riff on the jokey way that 20-somethings referred to any responsible decision.

Murray loved, she says, "the therapeutic and cathartic part of writing," but the blog also let her unfurl the sense of humor she'd been known for her whole life. Like many who routinely make their friends and family laugh, Murray had harbored thoughts of writing or performing but had never allowed herself to take them seriously. "It was like I was waiting for someone to give me permission," she says. A year or two into blogging, someone finally did, in a roundabout way.

Her neighbor, who worked in publishing, showed Murray's work to some of her colleagues. The verdict was that her writing was good, but in the harsh reality of today's publishing world, Murray was pronounced too unknown for a book contract.

So, in December 2018, Murray set about getting known, launching her parenting Instagram account. Her second post was a picture of Callum's rendition of the figure 900, which, thanks to a backwards nine essentially read "poo." From here forth, Murray wrote, "going poo will only be referred to as having to do a 900. If it's an emergency, call it a 'Nine Zero Zero.'"

She ends many of her posts with her signature catchphrase, "Get yourself a snack," poking at the camera lens with each word for emphasis.

More than 1,000 posts later, Murray counts among her followers not just celebrities like Garner and Burr, but also Penelope Cruz and Jennifer Aniston. She is also followed by comedians Jimmy Kimmel and Chelsea Handler. Various Kardashians have shared her videos. "It's a really bizarre feeling," she says, to be in the thick of creating popular culture.

"My daughter has asked me if I'm famous," says Murray, because her teachers or her friends' parents might mention something about Big Time Adulting videos. "I assure her that I'm a Z-list celebrity."

Nevertheless, that level of fame is worth a lot in today's social media economy. Murray does have a talent agency, a company run by a pair of Canadian moms who specialize in social media clients. One of her agents, Sam Ryley, says that what makes Murray stand out as a content creator is the number of shares and comments her content receives, calling her engagement level "bananas." Murray's content also stands out in that people tend to watch her reels all the way to the end, a testament to her writing. Because the algorithms social media platforms use to sort content tend to favor that kind of engagement, Murray's videos are increasingly being seen by ever more people in a virtuous cycle.

What makes Murray rare among social media celebrities is that she hasn't done much to cash in on her fame. At her level, every bespoke ad a content creator posts is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, yet rather than pushing out the reams of product endorsements common among influencers these days, Murray partners with just a handful of companies, promoting products she actually uses (among them, snacks!).

"I didn't get into this to get famous and push a bunch of product," she says. In 2024, she also started writing a weekly newsletter called *Soul Snacks*, which has quickly grown to 32,000 subscribers. She is also working with her agency to spin up all of her material into a long-term sustainable business, whether that's licensing products or creating more media. Murray declined to divulge her plans except to say that she did finally land a book contract.

"From the time I hit 100,000 subscribers, I was getting solicited by literary agents," she says. It wasn't until last spring, though, that she finally decided to entertain some of those offers. She has since inked a contract with Penguin Random House for an as-yet-untitled book of essays, due in November of 2025.

In the meantime, she's posting videos every week or so, warning new parents that toddlers are impervious to reason and railing against people "who tell moms we look tired." ("We know we look tired. We fantasize about what it would be like not to be tired all the time.") She's also ducking her daughter's requests to make social media content together or to appear in Big Time Adulting videos. Murray almost never features her kids, for reasons of privacy and because it isn't her style. "I tell her no, scram. I can't make fun of you when you are right next to me." M

Baucom Named 18th President

A few weeks after the turn of the New Year, Middlebury's Board of Trustees announced the appointment of the institution's 18th president: Ian Baucom, currently the executive vice president, provost, and Robert C. Taylor Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He succeeds Laurie L. Patton, who left Middlebury at the end of 2024 to become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Baucom is widely regarded as a leader in higher education who has long championed the role of colleges and universities as civic institutions. He has empowered teaching, research, and learning to engage the urgent challenges of our time by building partnerships across a broad spectrum of disciplines: neuroscience and biotech, the humanities, environmental resilience, global Black studies, the visual and performing arts, digital technology, and artificial intelligence. As a scholar, teacher, mentor, administrator, and colleague whose work has influenced individuals and organizations here and around the world, he has been a steadfast advocate for the work of education in changing lives and advancing the promise of democracy.

Ian Baucom reflects on his appointment in a conversation that can be found on Middlebury's YouTube channel.

Baucom has been provost of UVA since 2022 and was dean of its College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences for the preceding eight years. He arrived at UVA following a distinguished career at Duke, where he was a professor of English, chair of the English Department, and director of the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute.

Baucom will begin his tenure on July 1. Until then, Stephen Snyder, dean of the Language Schools and vice president of academic affairs, is serving as interim president.

The announcement of Baucom as Middlebury's next president was made as this issue was preparing to go to press. More on the appointment can be found at www.middlebury.edu.

GO FIGURE

Crossroads Café, Middlebury's student-run café, relocated to Davis Family Library this year from its longtime home in McCullough Student Center. With its extensive menu of coffees, smoothies, and other drinks, Crossroads does its part to ensure that patrons are properly hydrated, caffeinated, and nourished. At the end of October 2024, sales data revealed what was hot, and cool, during the fall semester.

1,172
Double lattes

971
Chai lattes

892
Single lattes

576
Matcha lattes

232
"Kitchen sink" smoothies (pineapple juice, peaches, mangoes, blueberries, and strawberries)

383
Large coffees

114
Vermont milkshakes

97
Honeybee double lattes

From NESCAC to NFL?

Stephen Hauschka '07 might soon have some company.

Even casual fans of Panther football are familiar with the kicker's story, one that began with his walk-on tryout for the Middlebury football team in the early 2000s and eventually ended with him competing professionally in the National Football League for nearly a decade, a time when he set NFL records, earned a Super Bowl ring, and was honored as an alternate to the Pro Bowl.

Hauschka was great (he was just inducted into the Midd Athletics Hall of Fame) and rare—a Division III standout who made the monumental leap to the upper echelon of competitive football.

Now Thomas Perry '25 has a shot at adding another chapter to the "Midd Alum Heads to the NFL" story. The six-foot-three, 311-pound offensive lineman recently competed in the East-West Shrine Bowl, an all-star showcase for professional football aspirants, almost all of whom come from Division I schools.

And he did pretty damn well.

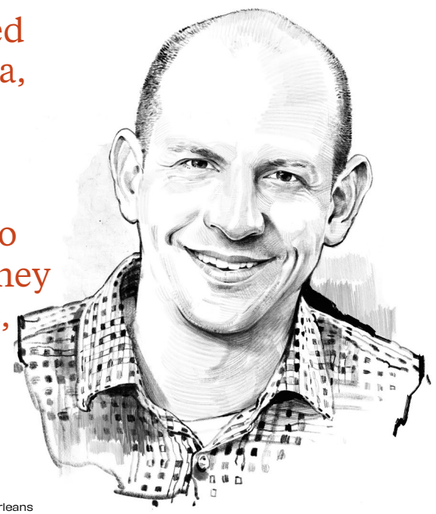
A few days before the game, a video of Perry holding his own in practice against a pass rusher from the University of Georgia went viral; this clip was followed by reports that consistently mentioned the Midd star as one who stood out among his peers.

Postgame—he played many snaps at both offensive guard and center—Perry was touted as one who greatly improved his chances at being drafted by an NFL team this April.

We don't have him penciled in for a Super Bowl quite yet, but we're certainly warming to the possibility that we just might have another Panther to cheer for on Sundays.

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

"While ISIS has been degraded in real-world spaces like Syria, they do still have a presence in a number of places where they can gain access to a computer and social media to send propaganda. So while they have lost territories in places, it almost doesn't matter, so long as an ISIS propagandist has access to a computer."



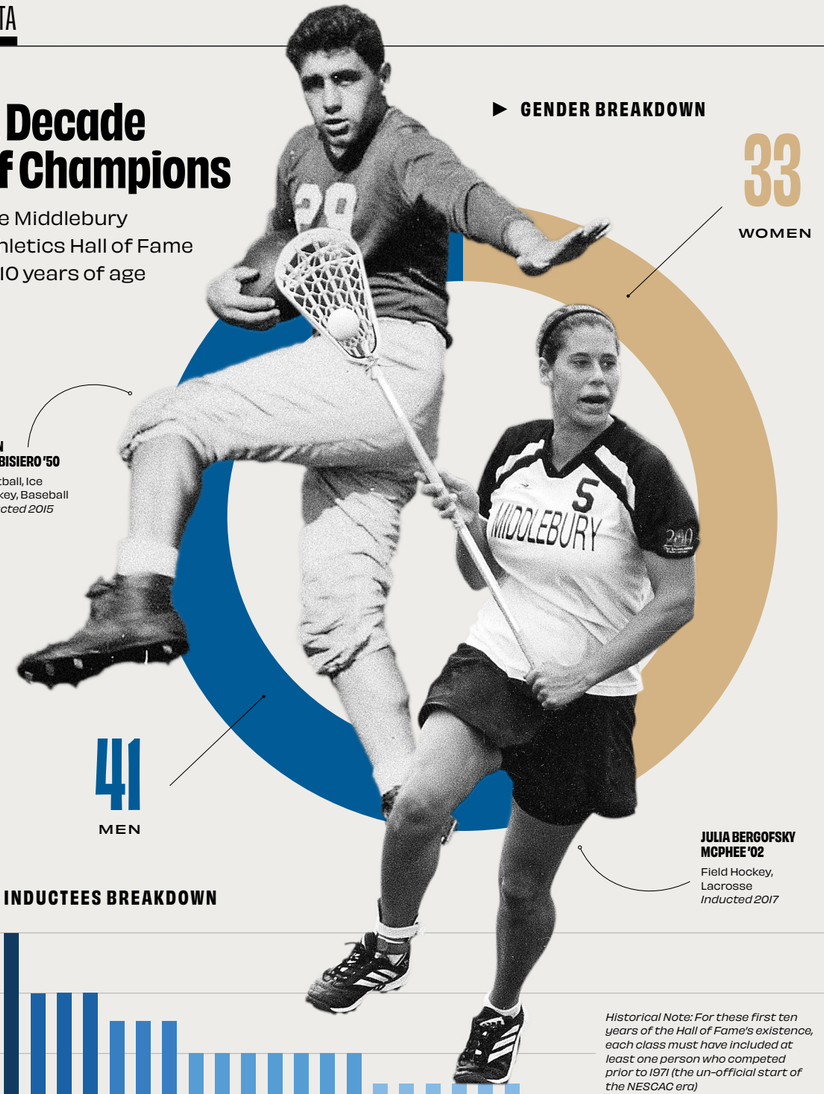
—Jason Blazakis, executive director of the Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism at the Middlebury Institute, as quoted in a story titled "New Orleans Attack Puts Focus on Trump's Counter-ISIS Strategy" in *The Hill* newspaper.

PORTRAIT ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRÉ GOTTSCHALK

DATA

A Decade of Champions

The Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame at 10 years of age



JOHN CORBISIERO '50
Football, Ice Hockey, Baseball
Inducted 2015

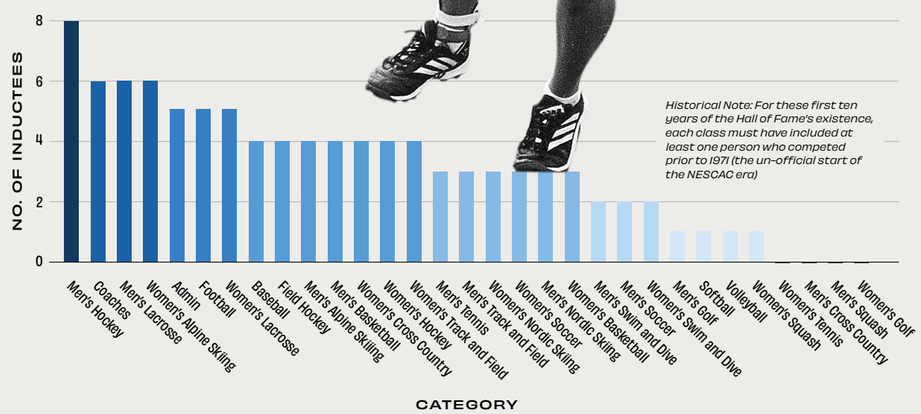
JULIA BERGOFSKY MCPHEE '02
Field Hockey, Lacrosse
Inducted 2017

▶ GENDER BREAKDOWN

33 WOMEN

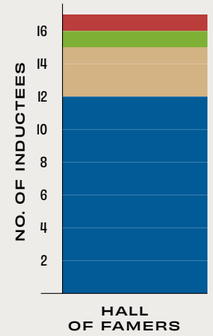
41 MEN

▶ INDUCTEES BREAKDOWN



Historical Note: For these first ten years of the Hall of Fame's existence, each class must have included at least one person who competed prior to 1971 (the un-official start of the NESCAC era)

▶ DATA WITHIN THE DATA



▶ DID YOU KNOW?

Football a big second-sport—**8 hall of famers** in another primary sport also played football

Skiing as one category—**16 total Hall of Famers:** 10 Alpine (6-4, women) and 6 Nordic (3-3)

Hall of Famers have **played** in a Super Bowl, a World Series, and competed in **10 different Olympics**

Baseball is the **oldest sport** at Middlebury, having begun competition in **1881**

Men's Squash is the **youngest,** having begun competition in **2007**

Forecasting: The **field hockey** program is represented by **four hall of Famers**, but expect that to change in the coming years. The Panthers have won seven consecutive national championships—and players must wait 10 years before they are eligible for selection.

▶ CLASS SIZE

Classes have ranged from 5-10 selections, with an **eight-person class the most common.** There was not a class in 2021 due to COVID.

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THE MIDDLE

LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND EVERYTHING IN B[illegible]N

WE'VE ALL WONDERED WHAT OUR PETS ARE THINKING. FILMMAKER **ANDY MITCHELL '96** WENT IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER. PAGE 24

PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDAL FORD

Best in Show

A filmmaker takes us into the minds of the animals who are part of our families.

BY SARA THURBER MARSHALL

One of the cool things Andy Mitchell '96 learned while making the documentary *Inside the Mind of the Dog* is that dogs have unique noseprints. Like humans have fingerprints.

But learning cool things is what Mitchell has been doing for years as he has pursued a career as a cinematographer, director, writer, and producer, making films and working on everything from shorts to feature documentaries to series and commercials. Mitchell loves to tell stories and entertain people, and he particularly loves to educate viewers about the natural world. His résumé lists an impressive oeuvre of films made on every continent and in every ocean on the planet, from going deep into the Serengeti to film a "super pride" of lions to swimming with sharks and filming underwater for a *Shark Week* episode. He has worked with National Geographic, Disney+, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, and Smithsonian, to name just a few of his collaborations.

He has also done projects with Netflix. In 2016, he was a cinematographer for a feature documentary on elephants; in 2021, he was the writer and showrunner for an eight-part Netflix series on penguins. Netflix knew his work, knew the awards he'd garnered. So when they wanted something done on domestic cats, they went to Mitchell and his partners. "They basically asked, what can you do for us?" Mitchell says. "So, we pitched *Inside the Mind of a Cat*."

Mitchell points out, "There's a weird spike in the science of domestic animals—people haven't studied them so much, but now they're focusing on them because there's something about the human-animal connection that's being realized as very unique." Mitchell and his crew went to work on cats. "It was a low-budget, under-the-radar production that we thought no one would really care about. We didn't really expect much from it—but it ended up hitting number seven in the U.S. on Netflix, as well as number five for kids, and number nine globally, all in the week it released."

Netflix was paying attention. They wanted another film from Mitchell, this time about dogs. But they wanted it elevated. "That was their nice way of saying they didn't want it to look low budget," Mitchell says. They gave Mitchell the resources he needed, including bringing on board American film producer Amy Hobby, best known for producing the documentary *What Happened, Miss Simone?*, which earned her a nomination for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. "She was like a mentor to me, a trusted soundboard, which was the best experience I've had in a long time." As story producer, she helped cast the experts and draft interview questions, and helped with music, graphics, and the overall narrative. Another addition to the crew was Rob Lowe, an avowed dog lover (he has four), as narrator.

Mitchell and his coworkers dove into the process, doing extensive research and talking to every dog expert they could find. They read all the recent pertinent nature science publications and built a spreadsheet of the 36 top dog experts in the world. "We wound up finding this one guy, Brian Hare, who is widely considered the godfather of dog science. He is one of the top minds on the subject and has been for 30 years. We really wanted him to be involved." But Hare, the founder of the Duke Canine Cognition Center, didn't usually do collaborations of that kind. He admitted he didn't even take meetings like the one he had with Mitchell. But he'd seen the cat movie. His wife and kids had seen the cat movie, and they loved it. They told him to be nice to Mitchell.

Hare's help was invaluable. He works closely with the organization Canine Companions, which raises and trains service dogs, and he connected the filmmakers with the service dog team. His endorsement opened doors for Mitchell's crew. They followed the progress of the dogs being trained at the center for months and months and were on hand at the meeting when the dogs were finally matched with their people. That's when they met Jazmine, a 23-year-old woman with verbal communication and physical limitations, who was going to receive one of the dogs. They were welcomed by her parents to follow their story.

"That really gave us the through line we were looking for because that is what was missing in the cats documentary. We wanted there to be a story arc with the dogs and we found it with Canine Companions," Mitchell says. "The service dog story turned out way better than we could have expected. It still makes me cry. That's the goal. We said at the beginning that we wanted to make people cry at least once during the film."

"We wound up finding this one guy, Brian Hare, who is widely considered the godfather of dog science."

Mitchell takes a fluid approach to telling a story. "We don't overscript. You write your script with the thought that this is what you think you are going to get, this would make a great movie. Then you throw the script away as soon as you get out in the field, and you tell the best story you can." Which is exactly what happened in the dog documentary. Once they started following three dogs (Bonus, Peabody, and Nemo) at Canine Companions, they hoped to make a relationship with a recipient. They didn't know who it would be, but they were cautiously optimistic that one of the dogs would be successfully matched. "We got very lucky with how it landed. We loved the Bonus and Jazmine connection. Kevin, Jaz's father, was incredibly helpful and accommodating, and her family really believed in what we were doing. They gave us amazing access to a lot of private stuff, which I think really helped us." And the family loved the movie. Jazmine felt like a rock star.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO/STEVE JAMES

"We also loved that Peabody was matched with a recipient with PTSD. Nemo didn't make it, but the three outcomes showed a variation of results, which worked well for the movie. We could never have predicted how it would turn out. But it's a great example of being organic with the script process. To me, this flexibility is the nature of quality documentary filmmaking." Audiences agreed. Within a few days of being released in August, *Inside the Mind of the Dog* climbed to number three in the U.S. on Netflix and number five in the world and was the number one documentary for eight days. It's still one of Netflix's most-liked films.

Both the film about cats and the one about dogs are indicative of a shift in Mitchell's way of thinking about his creativity. For years he's worked on more serious subjects, like climate change and its effect on the natural world, films he believes are important. Now he's leaning more toward what he calls "documentary lite," with stories that, as he says, "make you forget about the apocalypse." He feels that sometimes you can engage people more and maybe change minds by telling fun, compelling stories rather than dire ones.

INSIDE THE MIND OF A DOG
Streaming on Netflix.

When asked about his next project, Mitchell isn't ready to divulge any specifics at this point. But he's quick to talk about where streaming is headed. "Our industry's in a bit of reimagining, especially the broadcast documentary space, because people don't necessarily want Discovery Channel anymore. This year has been the worst year for the television industry, kind of on the heels of the strikes. It's this crazy Wild West right now. Netflix is the standard, but the future is not Netflix. It's YouTube and Twitch, where things are headed. The more you can be interactive and immerse people in it, the better. I equate it to the *Choose Your Own Adventure* books. I've worked out the model, but I've yet to get someone to allow me to do it and give me a million dollars for it."

Change can be scary when it affects your career, unless you are prepared to evolve with it. Mitchell is clearly keeping his eye on what's happening and preparing for what's coming. But some things don't change, like the way people feel about their pets. Cat lovers, dog lovers, or both—viewers will continue to enjoy Mitchell's films for a long time. M

OVERHEARD

Keeping It Real

Documentary filmmaker Marcus Clarke '05 reflecting on storytelling and hip-hop in an ABC interview about his most recent film, *The Honorable Shyne,* which relates the life story of Grammy-winning musician Moses "Shyne" Barrow. *The Honorable Shyne* is currently streaming on Hulu.

"[Hip-hop] comes from the disenfranchised, from people who've been oppressed. It resonates because it's real. Our people have always made something out of nothing, sampling, creating with the tools we have."

RECORDS: ISTOCK; COURTESY OF LEIGHA FRANCIS

ON SCREEN

Meet ELLE

Leigha Francis '25 has created a performing artist who is commanding attention

In the short video "Becoming ELLE," Leigha Francis '25 is standing on a beach in her native Jamaica. She seems a little nervous, her eyes flitting on and off camera, yet she's clearly excited, as she smiles broadly and laughs while talking about her emerging music persona.

"ELLE is an upcoming artist," she says, "still looking for her sound. Not gonna lie."

The video was shot about three years ago; since then, Francis has continued her evolution as a singer and dancer and performer, and ELLE has found her sound, her presence, her groove, and is an artist on the rise. During the past few months, she has released a debut EP and three music videos featuring her lyrics and vocals. Her debut video, "Give Me a Sign," premiered last October. It's been followed in quick succession by "Chance on Me" and the Valentine's Day release of "Sugar Cane." In each, that nervous energy from "Becoming ELLE" is nowhere to be found, replaced by a confident and charismatic performing artist whose sound melds R&B, soul, pop, and Afrobeat, a confluence that seems distinctly her own.

Francis is a film and media culture and dance joint major (she dances in all her videos and has said she'll dance "wherever music is played"), and she has directed or codirected all her video releases. Her debut was codirected by fellow film major Malick Thiam '24 and was filmed in New York City. Her next two releases, though, saw her return to Jamaica—a MiddChallenge arts grant helped fund the trip—and she says that both of her most recent songs are intended to represent how she "hears Jamaican music and how much it's influenced" her.

At the end of that now three-year-old video that announced the arrival of ELLE, Francis concludes by saying ELLE is "excited. She's ready. She's doing the damn thing."

Yes. Yes, she is.

CINERARY URN AND ALTAR TOP INSCRIBED FOR LUCIUS CALVINUS PUBIANUS SABINUS, ROMAN, C. LATE 1ST CENTURY WITH 8TH CENTURY BASE. MARBLE WITH PLASTER RESTORATIONS; (9 1/8 H X 13 3/4 X 13 1/8 INCHES. ENGRAVED AND RESTORED BY GIOVANNI BATTISTA PIRANESI (ITALIAN, 1720–1778). COLLECTION OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART; PURCHASE WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE CHRISTIAN A JOHNSON MEMORIAL ART ACQUISITION FUND, 2023.005.3;SONYA CLARK (AMERICAN, BORN 1967). *HAIR WEAVE*, 2018. HUMAN HAIR, (6 3/4 X 8 X 1 3/4 INCHES. COLLECTION OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART; PURCHASE WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS OF ART ACQUISITION FUND, 2020.034. [PHOTO: JONATHAN BLAKE] BACKING, 25 1/4 X 18 IN INCHES. COLLECTION OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART; PURCHASE WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS OF ART ACQUISITION FUND, 2020.034. [PHOTO: JONATHAN BLAKE]

REVIEW

LONG LIVE BRAZENHEAD

Out of a secret bookstore comes a unique literary review.

When you reach the main page of the website for the *Brazenhead Review*, you find yourself in a black-and-white photo, in a room with shelves overflowing with books, as the word *Enter* floats in the center, inviting you in. You have landed in the 84th Street apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan where for years Michael Seidenberg ran his secret (legally unsanctioned) secondhand bookstore, Brazenhead Books. Here Seidenberg would welcome book lovers who knew the address and would come for literary discussions, perhaps some whisky, and recommendations about a good book. And it was here that the idea for the *Brazenhead Review* was conceived.

Jeff "J.T." Price '01 is the editor in chief of the magazine. He was also a frequent visitor to Brazenhead Books and knew Seidenberg well. And while he was not the originator of the review—that would have been Seidenberg's assistant, Simona Blat, and her coeditor, Mo Z, who published the first issue in 2015, bankrolled by Seidenberg—he came on board in 2022. Blat had done the 2015 issue as a limited-edition print run after the 84th Street bookshop was shut down when Seidenberg was evicted (the address had become too well known). She then published a second volume online in memory of Seidenberg after he passed away in 2019. Price joined the operation with the intention of returning the review to print and honoring the original idea behind its conception.

That original idea was steeped in Seidenberg's own philosophies. As the website asserts, "Anyone and everyone was welcome at Brazenhead Books and Michael was well-known for encouraging open dialogues on myriad topics. The magazine continues in this tradition, in his honor, to channel open-minded, good-humored, and anti-oppressive ways of communicating." It also encourages new writers and "seeks to emphasize substance over clout." Hence, one of its unique features is a scratch-off sticker placed over the author's name for every piece in the magazine. Price says, "We want the reader to have a direct encounter with the work without bringing preconceived notions to bear, whether they are seeking out a friend or a famous author. We read our submissions without knowing who the writer is and want to extend that experience to our readers." Indeed, the submission guidelines warn that any document with biographical information on it will not be read.

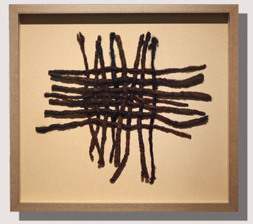
One of Price's first acts as editor in chief was to raise enough money to get the publication back into print and pay writers a fair rate. He then led the review through the production of three issues, March 2023, September 2023, and May 2024. Price selects and edits prose submitted to the review and has poetry editors for choosing the poems. When asked what he looks for in a piece, he says, "The honest answer is that I select narrative work that strikes me as containing a radical juxtaposition side-by-side with the other chosen work. I'm not after a uniform aesthetic or style of messaging, but a vibrant mix. I like work that surprises me. I want each issue to be like a sampler plate of contemporary excellence." One story he ran, by writer Emily Simon, was about a young woman consciously exploring how "lying down" shaped her life; another was flash fiction about Michelangelo as an immeasurably talented animate pea in danger of being devoured whole by his giant human patron, the Pope. (Due to the blind submission process, it was only when this story was accepted that they learned it was by the novelist John Wray.)

The publication of *Brazenhead Review* is a labor of love for Price and his team. Not only do they take great care in selecting content, they make each issue a work of art. "It's more about creating a precious object than anything intended for mass production," Price says. So how would Seidenberg feel about the *Brazenhead Review* of today? "He was in the habit of joking that he wanted a talking bust, or 'brazen head,' of himself when he was gone. Push a button and it would say one of Michael's favorite sayings. Well, our R&D department is still developing that, but the *Brazenhead Review* is the next best thing, and I'd like to think that Michael would agree."

AT THE MUSEUM

The Middlebury College Museum of Art regularly adds new works in various media, spanning centuries, to its permanent collection. Recent acquisitions include the following:

Cinerary Urn and Altar Top Inscribed for Lucius Calvinus Pubianus Sabinus



***Hair Weave* by Sonya Clark**

***Surviving: SARS* by Ruth Cuthand**

THE

WORRYING DUDE

BY

JOSH BILLINGS '03

Matthew J. C. Clark '04 IS A WRITER AND CARPENTER WHO DEFIES CONVENTION

MIDDLEBURY MAGAZINE

PAGE XXIX

AS SOON AS HE SAYS it, I know this is it: The Key Quote, the Summarizing Expression of Character that all profile writers lust for and jump on, if they're lucky enough to find it. More importantly, it's the perfect place to end the article.

"I think we can't like everybody, but I think we can love anybody. Clear seeing, or truthful seeing—that's what love is. I think I want that feeling."

Matthew J. C. Clark '04 and I are in Bath, Maine, standing on the little wooden porch that shirt-tags off the side of his cheerfully yellow house. Below us, a black-and-white cat is making its way through the crabgrass, which spills like a gigantic mullet from the business-in-front face of the house itself—and then following its path my eye moves in a loose half-circle, down toward the Kennebec River across the road and then up around again until it arrives eventually at Matthew himself.

"Dude," he says.

"Dude," I reply.

"Dude."

He says this last "dude" quietly—and then maybe before we go any further, I should give you a little more about this word, which as Matthew uses it covers a wide range of expressive options. It can be short and declarative, like a sneeze ("Dude!"), or wry and lamenting, like a sigh (*"Dude . . ."*). Later in the evening, it will echo with a kind of Lebowskian self-parody, as if it were simultaneously trying to both appreciate the beauty of life and make fun of its own "*Double rainbow*!!" excitement. But now it feels tactically brief—as if he were trying to deflect my attention back out toward the view.

If this is what he's trying to do, it's not working; for at six-foot-three, Matthew J. C. Clark is tall enough to be unmissable even when he's scrunched, as now, on top of a porch rail. I have decided that this must be one of his challenges: that he protrudes like a lighthouse when really all he wants to do is chill inconspicuously in the background. Meanwhile, it's evening on one of those mid-September days when the temperature is hard to get a bead on, and over the course of the afternoon he has put the hood of his mustard-colored hoodie up and then down several times. Right now, it's down, exposing his matted hair and the large bump on his forehead that I saw at the February reading when I first met him—the same reading during which he answered an audience member's question by explaining that one day only a few weeks earlier the bump had just appeared, like the nub of a horn. Looking at it now, I remember the remark a friend made when I told her I was getting a chance to interview him. "Oh my god, I'd love to interview that guy," she said. "There's such crazy energy coming off him, it's like he's actually *crackling*."

She's right, too—although now that I'm actually here, I'm not sure how much of this kind of anecdotal charisma is going to make it into the article. I am not sure how much of it is really going to be germane to the Story of Matthew J. C. Clark that I've been working on at least since I read his book *Bjarki, Not Bjarki* and loved it so much that I wrote a review hailing it as a mini masterpiece. I have seen the future of under-200-page books about the Maine wood-mill industry, and it is a tall carpenter who enjoys artisanal vermouth. Because what I really want to get at isn't his taste in liquor, or the beautiful house that he restored himself: it's his Hero's Journey, in which a struggling writer (like myself) perseveres and eventually triumphs in the wilderness of backwoods Maine (where I also live). This, to me, is the startling and inspiring thing about Matthew—and why I don't want to get distracted by the fact that he's smoked at least two American Spirits since I got here, despite insisting multiple times that he doesn't smoke.

"Dude, you know I actually don't smoke," he says again, in case I missed this the previous few times, or maybe he just likes to contradict himself. And OK, sure, there are a fair number of Whitmanesque countercurrents in the Story of Matthew J. C. Clark too; for example, Matthew's separation and divorce, which frames the action of *Bjarki, Not Bjarki*, since it is the renovation of the just-married couple's dream house (the house that we're currently standing under) that drives him to The Wood Mill of Maine in the first place. Heck, even the book's title is a little koan of self-negation. But for my purposes, at this particular moment, I am trying to keep our conversation on the throughline, which is after all what I came here for, and why I have been trying to wrangle all these elements together over the past two hours.

So far, at least, Matthew has been pretty game. He has walked me with a tour guide's patience through his time at the Iowa Writing Program ("Workshop culture, dude"), the juvenilia ("My 'Portraits of American Manhood'—I'm glad it wasn't published"), the inevitable small-press chapbook ("You can read it online, although maybe I should just give you this one—my parents have, like, a box of them at their house"), and then finally the aforementioned moment of Clarity and Love. But now that we've made it to the present, I can tell that there's something about the sound of his career put together end to end like this that bothers Matthew—some part that I can see he feels like he has not gotten exactly right, and which makes him go back to Bjarki Gunnarsson, the owner and founder of The Wood Mill of Maine, and the man who provoked him into writing *Bjarki, Not Bjarki* in the first place.

"The thing I kept coming back to was the complexity of him, and of interacting with him in this time we're in right now. I mean, did you read that Janet Malcolm book?"

I have not, unfortunately, read that Janet Malcolm book.

"*Du-u-ude.* It's about how when you interview people, your subjects always know you're going to sell them out, but they still tell you everything, which is what happened with Bjarki. It was like, you read all these articles about people, and it's either celebratory or gotcha. But to me that just wasn't interesting anymore—do you know what I mean?"

I do know what he means, or at least think I do—although to be fair this is not something I want to be talking about either. Because ambiguity is one thing if there's a whole book to do it in; but I've got a Story to tell. I am literally writing one of those "articles about people," which means that I do have to "get" Matthew. Plus (and though I don't think about this at the time, it is glaringly obvious now, as I write) there's the uncomfortable fact that the success I've come to Bath hoping to pin on Matthew is not just one I want to write about: it's one I want to read about as well. It's something that, as a struggling writer (or maybe just a writer), I need to believe in: that the work will be worth it and the uncertainty will lead to discovery, at which point the drafts will be redeemed and the time spent turn out not to have been wasted, after all.

So—and maybe it's Matthew's artisanal vermouth talking here, or the unicorn horn—but when he asks me this question now, I swerve back toward the answers that I've already brought with me; the points I already made, in my review and elsewhere. I talk about the fretwork and architecture—the immense thought and planning it must have taken to achieve this voice, which to me feels as meaningful as anything I've read from a contemporary. I even tell him about the weird energizing emptiness that I sensed in the book, the absence whose gravity bends all of the book's unmissable chattering presence around it, like a black hole warping light. The whole thing takes about seven minutes, and when I'm done, Matthew nods.

"I'm not sure I follow you, dude," he says. "I mean, I wish I meant all that. To tell you the truth, there's so little intention involved in what I'm doing. It's just relaxing, and then watching something happen."

Then he ashes again, delicately, in the direction of the river.

"But I think that if we're going to eat, we'd better eat."

We drive to dinner, meaning that now, as I process Matthew's dismissal, I have a few minutes to tell you about *Bjarki, Not Bjarki*. When I started reading an excerpt from it in November 2023, three months before it was released, I thought the publisher had sent me a corrupted Word document by accident. But by the time I'd finished, I had decided that these were some of the best sentences I'd read in years.

And that, in my opinion, is the place to start with *Bjarki*: with its sentences, which are agile and textured and so packed with hot-mic decision that they feel less written than overheard, like snippets of a soliloquy. Some writers jewel their metaphors into perfect little Etsy baubles; others move with tectonic slowness, accumulating their best effects over chapters, sometimes entire books. Matthew's paragraphs offer a third way between these two extremes; reading the best of them (and there are many great paragraphs in *Bjarki*), I imagine that I'm walking through an overgrown backyard, in which the myriad buggy data points rise and mingle with blue atmosphere. Which is where my off-the-mark thoughts about *Bjarki* come in, or came in (R.I.P. my thoughts about *Bjarki*), for since my initial reading of those excerpts, I have decided that this movement stems not from any lucked-on quality like "genius" but from a consciously—and very artfully—placed space, an absence, which Matthew, for all the radical generosity of his narrative voice, has created in this book—that is in many ways his best creation. Because in a time when so many books are grasping toward Big Answers, what *Bjarki, Not Bjarki* offers is the opposite. A nonanswer—or maybe, even better, an instruction manual that shows us how to stay thoughtful and engaged with the world in the absence of Big Answers. Maybe even in opposition to them.

By now, however, downtown Bath has rolled up under my car's front axle, and we are at the restaurant: a Goldilocksian compromise between oysters, which sound decadent and intimidating to me, and pizza, which, as a dad of two under-12 boys, I have already had twice this week. Here, on the

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other hand, the lights are undaunting and the bar so Labrador-blond that it feels counterintuitive when, a few seconds after he sits down, Matthew reaches behind his neck to pull his hoodie back up.

"I don't know, dude," he says, when I ask him what's good here. "To be honest I always get the burger. I think it's the only thing I've ever had here."

Burger, candied Brussels sprouts, a pair of Manhattans so full that they look precarious even on the lacquered bar. Matthew sips at his quickly, as if he were afraid that the other patrons might notice his good fortune and get upset about it. He has seemed uncomfortable since we walked in, even more so than before—although to be fair, it's hard to tell if this alertness is social awkwardness or a kind of heightened writerly noticing. Because, granted, maybe I'm wrong about my larger interpretation; but if there's one thing that I am sure about, it's that the writer of *Bjarki, Not Bjarki* is a top-flight noticer. He's an egg of human Silly Putty, rolling through the world picking up twigs and dropped coins—except that what this metaphor misses is the conscious leaving-out that every writer knows is the real challenge, and which is at least partly what I want to hear him talk about now. I want to hear him tell me how he does it, or at least how he did it—and then maybe this is why, when the second round of Manhattans are delivered and I notice him noticing how distinctly less overflowing our glasses are than they were for our first round, I feel the sudden urge to try again—to push past the whole "I just sit there and the book drops out of me" thing he offered me earlier. I decide to go back to the beginning, back to when presumably he didn't know himself. I ask him about the first, unpublished project, the "Portraits of American Manhood" that he said he was glad was never published.

"Oh yeah, dude, that was super derivative. It was me trying to sound like all these other writers I liked."

OK, then what got him away from that?

"Well, I think I stopped trying to be someone else I admired and just let the voice run through me. I mean, you get to the right place with all this stuff and something just shows up. It's a relief, really—but you're not exactly in control. It's you and it's not you."

I try to hide my disappointment about this, since, let's be honest, if there's something the rest of us can use from the Story of Matthew J. C. Clark, this is not it. It's the usual half-veiled Calvinist malarky, with the artist essentially one of God's chosen and the rest of us chewing our cud on the sidelines. But before I can ask him more, something unexpected and maybe even a little revelatory happens. Matthew flags down our bartender—a cheerful and hitherto unflappable woman—and proceeds to point out to her, in a friendly but insistent way, exactly the thing that I just noticed him noticing; that is, that our most recent two Manhattans were definitely less full than our first two had been.

There is a moment of shock, as the bartender stares at Matthew as if he had just reached across the bar and honked her nose. But just as quickly, something shutters inside her, and she smiles at us.

"You got me," she says.

"I don't want to be a dick or anything," Matthew says.

"No, you're right, you're right. It's because I'd already mixed them."

"I felt like I had to say something. Maybe I shouldn't have said something."

The bartender doesn't show it, but it seems obvious to me that she agrees with him on this last point—although to be fair, in a few more seconds she is down at the other end of the bar serving other people as if nothing's happened. I nuzzle my Manhattan feeling more than a little confused. Whatever else it may be, this is not the kind of comment I would have expected from a transcendent writer-yogi. On the contrary, it's a *painstaking* gesture—an eye-mote that I realize Matthew has been scratching at for a good 20 minutes now. Having said it, he ducks his head back into his shoulders.

"Shit. I don't know why I did that," he says. The hoodie's skin is thin and shimmering: a fabric designed to wick. It looks scrappy and inefficient, like the top-half of a broken cocoon.

Dessert? "No, I'm good man, I'm good," Matthew says, although he is clearly not. He is embarrassed, which to someone of my WASPy, conflict-averse background is pretty much the worst thing you can be. Still, now that I'm looking at him closely, I must admit that there is a twinkle in his eye that was not there when we entered the bar—or at least, that I didn't notice. It's a *gleeful* look: a glint of self-delight or maybe self-mockery, as if he were not the ridiculous customer who had just said something rude to his bartender (or not *just* that) but a person watching someone else make that remark and enjoying it. Somehow it allows Matthew to be, weirdly, both present and not present in the action—both uncomfortable and in control, in a way that feels to me like it should be impossible but isn't, apparently.

And indeed, now that I'm here, I'm surprised to find that Matthew's look is really the thing I want to learn from him—because isn't that what writing is? A faux pas, a worrying, a willingness to spasm past the barriers we've learned to erect between one another and then stay there, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us, until a more honest connection has been made and a more durable truth revealed? What it is not, absolutely (admit it!), is transcendence; or at least not the kind that lasts for more than a little while, let's say the time it takes you to read this paragraph. I pay over Matthew's protests, because I'm the interviewer. For a second I consider leaving an enormous tip; but I don't, mostly out of habit, I guess. The bartender gives us the "Goodnight, guys" she has no doubt given a dozen times already this evening and will give again a dozen more. As I stand up, I notice that Matthew has left about a third of his Manhattan undrunk, bringing the glass to exactly the same level as before the bartender gave us our top-off.

Another thing I'm sure of, still: *Bjarki, Not Bjarki* is a worrying book, and one of the things that it's most worried about is our desire, as a society and individuals, to stuff the messy personalities of our neighbors into caricatures that we can loathe or worship without needing to extend ourselves. Its method for doing this is to explode exactly the literary form you're consuming at this moment, the "magazine-style essay" (as Matthew puts it) or profile piece; sluicing its easy clichés through Matthew's second-guessing sentences until our original prejudices become less important—if not completely unrecognizable. Most of the time our experience of this is gorgeous and intuitive; but over the course of the book even I must admit that it begins to get boggy. It's like trying to watch a baseball game through a kaleidoscope: "Where are we going, what's the point and resolution of this?" we occasionally want to shout; for example, when I find myself back on Matthew's porch, staring out at the same river rolling past the same pretty, bucolic slope. I feel antsy and transferred—I want to reach through all the theories and thoughts we've been tossing back and forth and touch something that convinces me I'm not a sucker. Because the surprising (for me at least) truth is that, after spending an entire afternoon and evening with him, I find myself even further from believing in the Story of Matthew J. C. Clark than I was before. Is this what a great new writer looks like in 2024? Is The Wood Mill our Walden Pond? Or am I just making this all up: seeing artful absence where there is really just a half-baked inability to face one's demons and move on, already?

I keep waiting for Matthew to put my questions to rest—because isn't that how this kind of thing is supposed to end? He wrote the book, after all, which must mean that something has changed: some neurosis has been overcome, or some spiritual shame transmuted and solved via the miracle of achieved form. The book works, so shouldn't Matthew? So I ask, for maybe the third time that night: what changed?

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Matthew raises his right hand, curling his fingers into a One-does-not-simply-*walk*-into-Mordor ring—and then for a second it looks like he's trying to pick a single sound out of the late summer air, a ground cricket or mouse rustle or whatever. Watching him, I think, somewhat depressively, what a joke our idea of "story" really is—as if we ever could or should pinch a single strand out of the world. Although who knows, maybe Matthew is about to show me the way?

"I just signed up for a six-week meditation retreat, if that's what you mean," he says, which, of course, is not at all what I mean. But then he smiles, and I get the feeling that we are in the middle of one of those *Bjarki* paragraphs that is going to pratfall its way into some further, even less likely truth.

"I think I thought publishing the book would be, like, happiness. Like it'd be the answer, and then I'd be done, and doors would open, and I'd move somehow, like, *through* the world. But what it really feels like sometimes is that I fooled everybody with this book. There's nothing in it, and now it's like 'How did I do that?' And the worst part is, there's no way I'm going to trick them again. So, it's daunting, to just sit down and not know what you're listening for."

It is not what I was looking for, but man: here, now, do I know what he means. It is daunting to not know what you're listening for, although maybe not any more daunting than finding it—and then though, unlike Matthew, I do not really understand how to write about this yet, I can, on this particular evening, find the words. Or a word.

"Dude," I say.

"Dude," he says. And then right after this he says what I will later realize is really the best line of the night, which he tosses off parenthetically and apropos of nothing (everything) after glancing above us one more time.

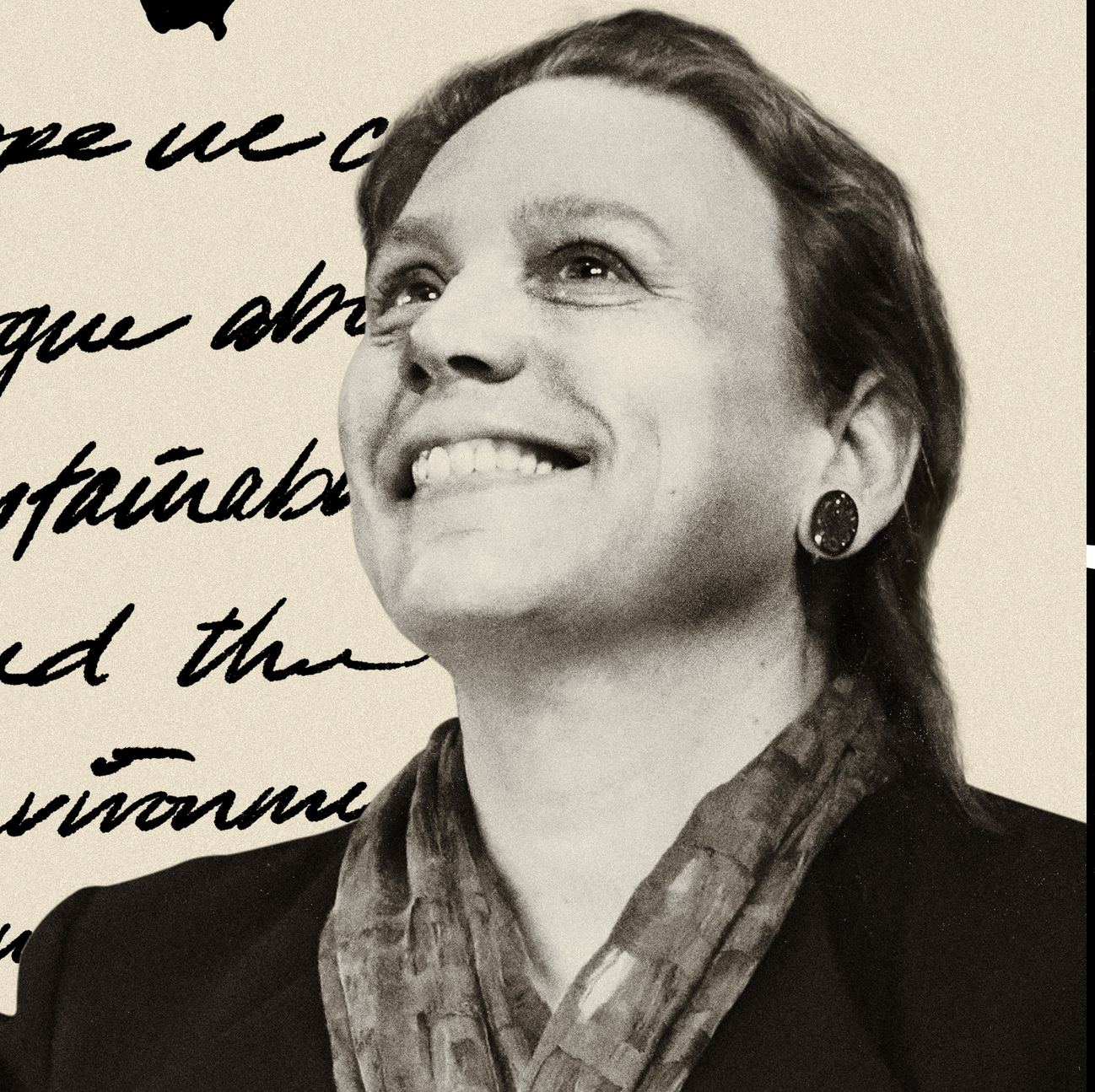
"I mean, we were going to live in this house with a family. Now I live in this house with a cat and a roommate."

It's hard for me to write these sentences in a way that doesn't sound depressing, but the interesting thing is that what I remember about Matthew actually saying them is that he sounded not heartbroken or even sad, but calm, as if the return to an empty house and a blank page were the real accomplishment of his time writing *Bjarki, Not Bjarki*. The clear sight, or at least a glimpse of it.

No doubt this is a good place to end the Story of Matthew J. C. Clark, too—although as usual life has something to add, or take away, which I guess is what the best books always tell us. So as we stand there bobbing in the awkward finality of what Matthew has just said, my eye lands on a white-haired man in a fishing vest walking out of the house directly across the street from us. He looks up, flashing an upraised palm, and then proceeds to mount what appears to be one of those elaborate sitting-down bicycles, which he maneuvers so laboriously that I am unsure whether he is trying to K-turn out of his driveway or pull further into it, or maybe just stay there performing his spirograph curls for some unknown observer, or maybe just for himself, like a girl practicing baton late into the night.

Matthew watches him closely, a look of attention and pain and humor on his face, all mixed together in a clear appreciation of the awkward grace of this moment.

"That's Rodney; he's a writer too," he says eventually, smiling as the man glances up one more time. "He'll probably come over and talk to us." But the prospect of our company must be either too daunting, or not daunting enough, and after a few more turns Rodney clears the driveway, gliding down the road to follow the river as far as I can see him, and then finally farther than that. M



THE

Patton

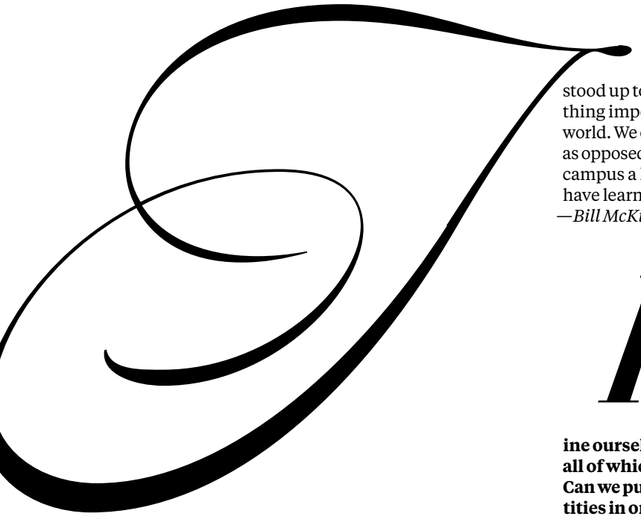
YEARS

Rebecca Kneale Gould, Bill McKibben, Jay Parini, and others reflect on Middlebury's 17th president

35

On a windy October day in 2015, Laurie L. Patton was inaugurated as the 17th president of Middlebury, the first woman to hold the position in the school's 200-plus-year history. That day, with more than 1,000 people gathered on the quad to the west of Old Chapel, Patton delivered an inaugural address that outlined what she hoped to be the themes of her presidency.

Nearly a decade later, as Laurie departs to become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, we have selected seven main passages from that address, annotating each with an observation from a member of the Middlebury community.



hope we can argue about sustainability and the environment in a way that helps us to be creative and multiple in our responses. We will be one of the first institutions in higher education to be carbon neutral. For all of us that is to be celebrated. But for some that will be old news. Are we moving together to identify and move forward with the next steps? There are new forms of alternative energy, green investments, ways of holding companies and ourselves accountable for conservation and lowering our carbon footprint. Are we moving together in a way that is constructive and creative, even if we occasionally disappoint one another by not moving fast enough or radically enough or in all the right directions?

Laurie arrived at Middlebury to find a college already deeply engaged in thinking about sustainability. But that process had stagnated some, and she figured out how to revive, deepen, and broaden that commitment in remarkable ways. The Energy2028 process was a masterstroke, for my money the perfect embodiment of her commitment to transforming conflict. Since the trustees had been wary of fossil fuel divestment, students were growing frustrated; she understood that packaging it with the internal work that needed to be done to green the campus made it both more palatable and more powerful. And she understood that the first generation of sustainability commitments (wood chips) were growing outdated, and needed an update—the big field of solar panels inaugurated this year will stand as powerful testament to the fact that she figured out where the world was heading, stood up to the inevitable NIMBY opposition, and did something important to the College, the town, the state, and the world. We often think of college presidents as administrators as opposed to educators, but she has taught everyone on this campus a lot about how to make change happen—I for one have learned an enormous amount watching her in action.
—Bill McKibben, Schumann Distinguished Scholar

I hope we can debate, in new ways, the relationship of our multiple identities as human beings. Can we find a way to think about intellectual, social, gender, economic, sexual, artistic, religious, athletic, bodily, and so many other identities, both our own and others, in new ways? Could we imagine ourselves as members of intersecting communities, all of which have something to contribute to the whole? Can we put aside some of the privileges of one of our identities in order to understand, empathize with, and work alongside of others that do not share that privilege? And here's the biggest challenge: Can we do that even as, at the very same moment, we ourselves might be feeling falsely accused or unjustly stereotyped?

President Patton's challenge to us seems, at first blush, to be a very contemporary one: a call for us to move through the precarities of today's identity politics with nuance, compassion, and self-awareness. At the same time, Patton's words pull me back to an earlier period—the decades immediately preceding the U.S. Civil War—when many Transcendentalists were also asking us to "imagine ourselves as members of intersecting communities." Henry David Thoreau was one of these prescient thinkers, a writer who refused to be boxed in by a single identity, but claimed carpenter, pencil maker, poet, naturalist, surveyor, inspector of snowstorms, and Transcendentalist as equally significant aspects of the whole.

A mistaken assumption about Thoreau—one of many—is that he thought everyone should leave their jobs and families behind and go live in the woods for the rest of their lives. Henry did none of this and, in fact, his experiment in living deliberately on the shores of Walden Pond consisted of merely two years, two months, and two days of his life. Thoreau did not seek imitators. Instead, in the opening chapter of *Walden*, he offers his readers a clear exhortation to the contrary: "I would not have anyone adopt *my* mode of living on any account. . . . I desire that there be as many different persons in the world as possible."

Thoreau fervently wished that his readers would not so much imitate him as take after him in terms of his curiosity and moral commitments. He invited his readers to ask the *kinds* of questions that he asked of himself, challenging questions that are not dissimilar to the ones that President Patton has asked. Can you get yourself past the trends of the times? Can you look honestly into the eyes of a neighbor whose life experience is quite different from yours? Can you lower the volume on your own grievances enough to hear the full, complex diversity of the voices (human and more than human) around you? "I would have each [person] be very careful to find out *his own* way," Thoreau insisted, "and not his father's or his mother's or his neighbor's instead." Anticipating the high ideals of a liberal arts education—which the Transcendentalists themselves helped envision and shape—Thoreau calls his readers to a life of wakeful experimentation. He asks us to be fully *ourselves*, while also urging us to be morally accountable to the communities in which we dwell. In Thoreau's time, such accountability included standing up against war, enslavement, and corporate greed.

To dare to be a college president is to dare to take on any number of Thoreauvian challenges, perhaps especially the challenge of being misinterpreted or misunderstood. Like Thoreau, President Patton has consistently offered messages to the "Middlebury and beyond" community that are distinctive in being more about questions than advice giving. More than once, Patton has invited us to engage in arguments "for the sake of heaven," a rabbinic practice that demands careful listening to both self and other. In asking us whether we can put aside some of our privileges, even in moments when "we ourselves might be feeling falsely accused or unjustly stereotyped," it seems to me that President Patton is calling us to move beyond the strictures of those identity markers that can unintentionally hem us in, even if they may also serve as sources of strength and pride.

My own version of this question might be this: do we want to live by nouns or by verbs? If I must live by nouns, like both Thoreau and President Patton, I would choose a multiplicity of identifiers, thereby guaranteeing a certain fluidity in how I understand myself and wish to be understood: scholar, teacher, shepherd, wife, writer, daughter of a single mother, compost cultivator, spiritual director, and, as I write this, inspector of snowstorms. Such plurality suggests an underlying desire to live and learn reflectively, experimentally, and with humility—to "live deliberately" and to "know by experience," as Thoreau famously put it.

We are all much more than any *one* of our identities. As President Patton takes off the mantle of just one of *her* identities and moves on to take up others, we can thank her for calling us to be our best "liberal arts" selves—asking big questions and living into them with compassion and a sense of adventure.
—Rebecca Kneale Gould, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies

"MIDDLEBURY'S STRENGTH LIES IN arguments 'for the sake of heaven,' grounded in nature, THE GREEN HILLS, AND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY modeling how to engage with opposing viewpoints WITH GRACE AND COMPASSION."

There may be times when we cannot discern whether an argument will result in an enduring good. And the outcome of the debate may not even be what we expected or hoped for. But we can still conduct ourselves in such a way that we hope for such a lasting result. In having these arguments, we do not become alienated from each other because one side has lost and another side has won, or because one side has proven itself more intelligent and sophisticated. Rather, in having these arguments, we become even more committed to each other.

A liberal arts college is founded on the idea that the world can only be understood through multiple perspectives. At our best, our intellectual community explores different ideas and information based on a shared commitment to learning and discovery. That hope for Middlebury was evident in Laurie Patton's inaugural address.

The challenge—for Middlebury and for higher education in general—is that our ability to *become even more committed to each other* is not guaranteed. Debates over free speech and pandemic-induced isolation have challenged our sense of shared commitment. At times, we have (in Laurie's words) felt *alienated from each other*.

We have had to return to basic questions: what will we talk about in college, and how will we talk about it? One of Laurie's former students, Agnes Roche '24, reminds me that "hard things are hard." Revisiting those foundational questions isn't easy, but the collective talent and commitment of our students, faculty, and staff has made it possible.

To support this work, Laurie's entrepreneurship and expertise secured the largest programmatic grant in Middlebury's history. In the framework of the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation, conflict is not just unavoidable—it contains the seeds of meaningful relationships and positive social change. With the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to foster constructive conflict, we are more likely to *conduct ourselves in such a way* that we can have good arguments—arguments in which we listen, critique, explore, and learn.
—Sarah Stroup, Professor of Political Science and Director, Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation

Middlebury wisdom means the capacity to take the long view, understanding the breadth and depth of our world even as we passionately pursue a single cause. We are not wise if, as Middlebury educators and educated

citizens, our only focus is the accumulation of profit and not the creation of value. We are not wise if we do not take time to contemplate the implications of an idea and its impact on the world. Wisdom is knowledge in context.

Laurie Patton exemplifies the wisdom described in this quote. She came to Middlebury with a deep appreciation for the value of each constituent part of the complex Middlebury family—the College, the schools, and the Institute—to play a unique role in providing an education that welcomes students from all walks of life and parts of the world and (paraphrasing the mission statements of these constituent parts) does the following:

- provides academic experiences that foster cultural engagement and personal growth;
- provides expert education in languages and cultures through innovative, immersive instruction to enhance linguistic excellence and intercultural understanding;
- helps teachers and other professionals become more critical thinkers, writers, and educational leaders;
- enables graduates to lead engaged, consequential, and creative lives, contribute to their communities, and address the world's most challenging problems; and
- educates professionals who advance understanding, promote peace, and drive change in pursuit of a more just world.

Embodying and operationalizing such sweeping visions and missions under one roof involves making tough choices. During President Patton's tenure, many challenges arose that could have been addressed through quick financial fixes, but at the cost of the long-term health of the institution and at the sacrifice of the Middlebury mission. In times of challenge, President Patton consistently reminded this community to focus on the long-term vision and mission. She asked us to reflect deeply on who we are and who we want to be, at our very core. In this way, she wisely guided Middlebury to continually create value in ways that position this institution to have a wider and deeper impact on the world for generations to come.

—Laura Burian, Professor of Chinese/English Translation and Interpretation and C.V. Starr Professor in Linguistics and Language

I believe in our unique combination of warmth and optimism and compassion and rigor—we have the disposition, and the collective genius, to become that place. I believe we can become the place known to have arguments for the sake of heaven.

I believe we can do this with the exhortation and help of the mountains all around us, and now too our ocean at Monterey. These mountains will help us find our place in the world, even as we wander in our deliberations. This is the strength of the hills.

I think Laurie hits the nail on the head here, as she often has. The strength of Middlebury, as she observes, is that we treasure arguments "for the sake of heaven." By this, I believe she means that we look beyond the kinds of destructive animus often created by arguments. As with all disputes, there will be moments when anger flashes, when tempers erupt. But at Middlebury we're held in place by nature, by the green hills, by the sweet ambiance of Vermont itself. This environment helps us to step back, to listen to the other side, and to move forward with grace and compassion, often discovering common ground. We've had some major conflicts during Laurie's tenure, and these are coincident with the stresses the have come to campuses across the board. I think back in particular to the arguments over free speech that arose in the wake of the Charles Murray visit to the campus in the spring of 2017. These arguments were fierce. But I have immense gratitude to Laurie for her way of standing up for free speech as a kind of bedrock value in the academic world. If people can't talk, they can't find a way toward expression that is adequate to the occasion at hand. It's worth noting that Laurie Patton helped to maneuver us, as an academic village, though many moments of real contention. But we've remained a loving and supportive community, and this has allowed us to model—for the nation, I think—how to engage with opposing viewpoints, how to stand up for ideas we believe in, how to listen and learn. Thank you, Laurie.

—Jay Parini, D. E. Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing

I hope we can argue about the nature of our newly complex Middlebury world. We are no longer a single unit, and we are constantly grappling with how plural or singular we might become. Research about us suggests that we like and are identified with our individual Middlebury units: the College, Bread Loaf, Monterey, the Schools Abroad, the Language Schools, etc. And I would encourage this identification as a good thing. At the same time, from our various corners, we now are witnessing the creation of an ecosystem of relationships across schools and programs. It would be a mistake to force a false integration. It would equally be a mistake not to recognize places where collaboration across our schools could result in mutual benefit. Like all great ecosystems, species interdependence and species differentiation go hand in hand.

When people hear "Middlebury," different mind maps of the brand may form. Many think first of the undergraduate College—a residential liberal arts campus, our robust study abroad programs, our commitment to the environment, our strength in language instruction. Others may think more expansively about a robust educational experience that provides students with the skills they will need to lead consequential lives and to address the world's most challenging problems. Those in government or in NGOs perhaps think

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: Laurie L. Patton speaking at undergraduate Commencement; hosting the *MiddMoment* podcast; welcoming Reunion guests to the Burgess Meredith Little Theater at Bread Loaf.

first of our immersive summer Language Schools, our James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and our graduate Institute programs in interpretation and in global security.

Those who work in education or live lives of letters will have a deep familiarity with the Bread Loaf School of English or the Writers' Conferences; they think of Oxford, and the mountain, and those iconic yellow buildings perfectly situated amid fields of green in summer and white in winter.

Now here is the exciting reality of the Middlebury ecosystem Laurie discussed nine and half years ago—many of our colleagues work across these vibrant programs and, perhaps more importantly, our students are increasingly taking advantage of these different opportunities in building unique portfolios of skills and experiences that both define a Middlebury education and are targeting each student's personal goals.

The truth is that while LLP said, "*I hope we can argue about the nature of our newly complex Middlebury world*," I will argue that none of this is really new. This is who we have been since our founding and over the generations; yet, as Laurie noted, the connections have become greater—to the mutual benefit of all.

—Michelle McCauley, Executive Vice President and Provost and Professor of Psychology

In a newly complex Middlebury, we embrace resilience—the capacity to develop a respectful, dignified response when we are injured, and the strength to return to shape. By resilience we do not mean "to power on" or "to power through" at all costs. Rather, resilience is about making the space to reflect and recover. Our students are helping lead in this effort, and we as a community should join them in developing the programs and places where resilience can grow.

What could more demand a respectful and dignified response than what our college and community have experienced over the last decade? While Laurie Patton has presided at Middlebury, we have known personal loss, including deaths among students, staff, and faculty. We have endured crises collectively, from political expressiveness on campus to geopolitical conflict around the globe. We endured the pandemic of a century and budgetary challenges resulting from all manner of upheaval, all while maintaining our commitment to wholeness as an institution and the integrity of our educational mission. It has been sure con-

viction through the unsteady times, leaning into reflection among trusted colleagues, advisors, and trustees—as well as listening deeply to students!—that has made for a resilient incumbency by our president, Laurie. Her example over these 10 years can be our definition for resilience.
—*Mark Orten, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life and Chaplain*

[redacted]

THE EXIT *Interview*

On a cold, blustery day in December, Laurie Patton's office in Old Chapel is in a state of flux. In a few weeks, she will depart Middlebury, set to become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, bringing to a close the tenure of the first woman to hold the office in the school's 224-year history.

Boxes are beginning to be filled with her belongings, and on this day lights and microphones are being positioned around the room. This interview is being recorded as a podcast and filmed as a YouTube video. She rolls into the office at precisely the start time, coming directly from another appointment, says hello, and we get started.

This interview can be found on YouTube and as an episode of Midd Moment, *downloaded wherever you listen to podcasts. What follows is an edited and abridged version of the conversation.*

MATT JENNINGS: Laurie, I'd like to start with a broad question as we come to the end of a presidency, historic in many ways. How has this job changed you? LAURIE PATTON: There are so many different things to say in response to that. I'll start with the little things that are funny, and then I'll do the big things. The little things are that you forget to turn your president mode off. So, as my husband frequently says, "Laurie, you are not the president in the kitchen." And my first response is, "No, I am. I am still the president of the kitchen."

But I think you really get used to managing everything and everybody. It's very hard, sometimes, to realize that you can stop doing that. I mean, there are two different modes. You're totally off or you're totally on. I think, as a result of 10 years of doing this, the in-between mode is hardest. And if I have to choose in an in-between moment whether I'm totally off or totally on, I'm going to go back to being the president. So, I think that's one thing, for sure.

Second thing is—because I have really come to know the power of community in this work and the power of what it means to be in a rural cosmopolitan place, which is what I call Middlebury, and how people come together for each other and how people who are having a big old fight one day deal with, you know, clearing each other's roofs of snow the next day, and that is just how we roll—I think that I have become truly invested in the power of the local.

And Middlebury, both the College and the town, has taught me something very profound about the vibrancy of democracy and the power of the local. And I think I always felt it, but you know how, when you're truly changed by something, the values that you already had move from becoming latent to explicit. And I think that's probably the most permanent change: close-knit communities are actually surprising and interesting. People understand that the next day, they are going to be in relationship to that person. So they have a sense of a future and a future relationship, which is also a lot about democracy. You know you will always have an obligation. I think it was a Vermont legislator who said that rural relationships are both dutiful and profound. There's a kind of connection there that really matters.

So when you're aware of that kind of relationship where you will have an obligation to the person, you will have a sense of connection to the person in the future, you change how you relate to them in the present. And I think that's also true in the best of democratic systems as well.

Middlebury, the institution, is well known as the town's college. The town's founding fathers also founded the College. I work in a building that bears the founder's name, Gamaliel Painter. His walking stick is on the wall over there. So, there is that throughline of history, but an evolution, too, as any place should have. When I think about Gamaliel Painter, and I think about his legacy, I think about another thing that is related to small communities. And that is the relationship between loss and generosity. The thing we know about Gamaliel Painter is that he watched one of his sons drown in Otter Creek. He lost another son to illness. He lost his first wife. Then, when he married again and had a beloved daughter, he lost his second wife and then the beloved daughter.

He lived through so much loss, yet, counterintuitively, he was known throughout the town as being someone of constant good countenance and generosity of spirit. I can't attribute motivation; that wouldn't be the right thing to do, historically. But I do notice that, throughout all those periods of loss, he kept up his generosity. He would donate a building. He would think about expanding his mill. He would make a gift, including the gift to the College. And all of these moments were moments of generosity. And I like to think of them as moments of generosity in response to grief.

I was going to bring this up later in the conversation, but while we're on the topic, I think it makes sense to address it now. You've personally dealt with loss during the past decade. We've lost students. We've lost faculty members, both present and emeriti. You lost a very close colleague in Jeff Cason, and you lost your father. These qualities that you were talking about seeing in Gamaliel Painter, we've seen in you. I had never thought of that before. That's a really beautiful thing to say. You know, I'll never forget, I was in Maine when we lost our provost, Jeff Cason. Just two weeks prior, he was sitting on the couch over there, filled with life. And I remember thinking when I learned that he had died, the most important thing we could do as a community was come together and celebrate his life. As a community, we needed to reassemble ourselves, not only to remember the person, which is the most profound thing, but also to remember that we can move on and that the person would want us to do so.

I think for each of the losses that we have had, what I've been impressed by is that the community has found a way to imagine the person in the midst of the continuity of the community that constitutes Middlebury, the institution. And that's been very powerful to watch, as well.

Tapping into that, that vein of history and continuity, in your first address to the community in Middlebury Chapel in 2015 you touched upon the theme that I think has been a constant in how we've thought and talked about Middlebury the past decade, and which is this tension between rootedness and restlessness. You saw it in the town. You saw it in the institution. Could you talk a little more about that? About how this creative tension between the two has informed your thinking and your work? I think you really hit on the dynamic that has been the most meaningful among many meaningful aspects of leading Middlebury and being a part of the Middlebury community. So, the rootedness, whether it's here in Vermont or in Monterey, has to do with a deep sense of place that never goes away. So, I think that's powerful. And I think that is where people do feel rooted.

And then the restlessness, I think, stems from two things. One is, we love to have relationships with other institutions, particularly abroad. I'm really proud of the fact that our relationships in our Schools Abroad are based on social capital rather than buildings. We're not creating big campuses. And yet, those are the schools and the affiliations that have thrived and survived. I think there's a kind of restlessness there that's about always wanting to go out into the world, never to stay just in Middlebury, but always wanting to travel and then come home. There's that whole dynamic—you never really know a home unless you've left it. And then you come back, and you go, "Okay, now I belong here."

You have to leave first. Exactly. You have to leave for that first time; you leave and then you come back. But I think there's something else about the restlessness, and that is more about the fact that I have never been at an institution that has been this old and has still a spirit of newness in it. Every other American institution that has been this old that I've been part of has not embraced the sense of innovation. That's an overused word, but I think Middlebury truly appreciates creativity. I think there's an invitation to creativity that's always been part of Middlebury. And that is also part of the restlessness; I've never seen Middlebury be self-congratulatory. As you know, I think I define mediocrity as you were excellent 10 years ago and still think you are.

That one thing you did. That one thing you did, right. That could be another way to think about it. Middlebury's never been that way. There's a relentless introspection and self-improvement that, on the tough days, I call congregationalist perfectionism, and on the amazing days I call that kind of restlessness that drives a spirit of creativity. So, I think there are two different elements of restlessness there.

One subject that has been ever present during your presidency—both on this campus and at institutions across the country—is the nature of free expression. In the spring of 2017, you delivered an address to Middlebury's faculty, titled "Free Speech and Inclusivity in the Public Sphere." At the heart of this address, you asked: "How does one acknowledge the discomfort that a true liberal education must entail while at the same time recognizing and respecting the often difficult and unfair experiences of our students who have walked in the American margins?" 2017 was a moment. We were broken, and we broke open. I think the last 10 years have been absolutely central and critical for Middlebury to be in a space where it sees its own brokenness and moves from that to do the really honest rebuilding that has to be done, whether that's thinking about freedom of expression and freedom of academic inquiry, two different things, and inclusivity afresh, whether that's thinking about what it means to belong at Middlebury or what it means to be accountable at Middlebury for constructive engagement in its own right.

We began by listening. One of our first responses was the Engaged Listening Project. And we began with faculty in which we asked, "How do we create those mini public squares where the tension between freedom of expression and inclusivity is framed differently, where it's framed in terms of listening better?" Because the tension between freedom of expression and inclusivity is never going to go away.

I felt an urgency to reframe the conversation. What is our obligation to students to give them the tools to not be afraid in the public square and also to not explode in the public square in a way that shuts down other speech? What followed was a focus on the classroom, where diversity of viewpoint and intentional listening have to go hand in hand. And then this became reframed as conflict transformation. Historically, this subject had been thought of as a pragmatic skill tied to a vocational track, but I saw it as being applicable more broadly, as a liberal art, because it's a skill that students can employ in every facet of their lives.

And it's been extraordinary to watch students, faculty, and staff embrace their own version of what it means to have more and better arguments with greater respect, deeper resilience, and more wisdom. This community has already had the resources to make that part of its soul, but I think it really shifted. And to see the community embrace it as much as it has, even during the toughest times, is quite rewarding. Is it perfect? No. Are people still mad? Yes. Are we having the same conversations that other campuses are? Yes.

We've been talking for a while and haven't spoken about something that was a big part of your presidency: COVID. Yes, indeed.

That happened. Yes, there was that.

You've spoken and written quite a bit about the experience as being a leader of an institution during a time that was terrifying, that was uncertain, that was even existential, to a certain degree. Looking back on that now, are you able to think about that holistically? I actually found leading during COVID super fulfilling. There was a commonality of purpose that I found to be inspiring. Middlebury pulled together. We found a way forward that protected people. And there was a kind of solidarity that allowed me to feel that I could lead in a really straightforward way.

A school's success or bumpiness in COVID was dependent on three things. One, the county and what the conditions of the county were. Second, the relationship to the state health department, wherever they were. And third, the risk tolerance of the president. Those are the three things that made it either something that that you could stand up or something that would be very hard to stand up.

But there was no plan, no road map to do this, unless you had something from the great influenza pandemic of 1918. Funny you say that. I had a really powerful experience early in that time; it must have been March 10 or 11, 2020. I was alone in Old Chapel, we had just decided to close. We had never done anything like this before, and I was having a series of difficult conversations with parents, with faculty, with staff. I needed to think, and during times when I need to clear my head and think, I'll go into the boardroom and do laps around that big wooden table.

Get your steps in. [Laughs] Right. So, I'm walking the perimeter of the room, and along the walls are all these portraits of Middlebury figures. And my gaze falls on this smiling man with a twinkle in his eye. It was John Martin Thomas, and something about his demeanor grabbed me. I remember thinking, "That's my spirit president right there." I later learned he was president during 1918.

I'm almost at a loss for words, and that rarely happens. I'd like to conclude by returning to a "sense of place." Soon you're going to have a new day job in Massachusetts, but you will also be retaining a house here. We spoke of belonging and home earlier. Is Middlebury home for you? When you're talking about place, one way of defining home is that place claims you. And the most mysterious thing to me right now, I have no idea how it's going to work, is, how can I be a proud member of the Middlebury community as someone who used to be the president and who still believes profoundly that this is the most interesting place to work in higher education, and do so in a way that is embodied differently than what I have for the last 10 years? I have no idea what that's going to look like, but even that feels like an adventure to me.

I think you're up for the challenge. I hope so. I sure do. M

Consider the Sea Otter

A study conducted by the Center for the Blue Economy at the Middlebury Institute in Monterey reveals the value of a once endangered species.

by Mark C. Anderson

photographs by Corey Arnold

While juvenile otters wrestle along the surface of the Pacific Ocean, intertwining in a scrimmage of mating tussles to come, a fuzzy pup steals a mama otter's clam, mid-crack, before she has a chance to share. Nearby, other otters float on their backs, easily reclining in a way that contrasts abruptly with the violent smashing of crabs on their bellies. And as harbor seals lounge unmoving on the shore, still more ever-active otters dive below the glittering bay for long intervals—swooping around the depths for clams, snails, urchins, abalone, mussels, and fat innkeeper worms—surfacing after a half minute, several hundred feet away from where they disappeared.

It's a mild summer afternoon on Elkhorn Slough, California, and the otters are *everywhere.* From the flat deck of an all-electric catamaran that moves like a whisper, a dozen locals and tourists pop and squeak with "Oh my gosh!," "Whoa!," and "Look at that!"

Captain and Monterey Bay Eco Tours co-owner Wendy Kitchell is familiar with the response and knows it personally. She often steers *El Cat*, which she built with her brother for low-impact, high-convenience, and high-frequency otter sightings.

"The first time visitors see the otters, they all jump up," she said. "Then, by the end, there's so many otters, they've fulfilled every expectation, and it's, 'Oh, another otter.'"

The otter prosperity grows more striking with historical context. For one, the southern sea otter was far from thriving fewer than 100 years ago. The entire species was believed to have been hunted to extinction in the early 1900s by fur traders for their lush pelts, before a small and distant population of 50 sea otters was spotted along the jagged and steep Big Sur coast, at the mouth of the river that now runs under Bixby Bridge.

On top of that, even as the southern sea otter population along the Central Californian coast has started to revive, representing the vast majority of the West Coast population of 3,000—and otters became ubiquitous mascots for the region—they remained unseen in at least one important way. That shifted with a study that was published last

year but whose results will radiate for the foreseeable future. "The Economic Value of Sea Otters and Recreational Tourism in a California Estuary" was cocrafted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey.

The world-famous aquarium sought out CBE because it specializes in generating open-access data, research, and analysis to uplift ocean health—in its mission's parlance, the center "leads the effort to measure the economic contributions of oceans and coastlines at the local, regional, state, national, and international levels."

Put differently, CBE's charge is to define the often dramatic—and long overlooked—upsides of oceanic conservation, in hard numbers. That can mean how much money vibrant wetlands in the Pacific Northwest save in disaster relief and loss prevention, and how much coastal resources contribute to economies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Center director and Middlebury professor Jason Scorse noted that the center's guiding philosophy syncs with his own—"My life is dedicated to helping humanity chart a more sustainable and ethical arc, and that's what MIIS is all about"—and with the "otternomics" investigation.

"We're in a money-driven world where we see things the market picks up—and not necessarily the values of being a human and the other things we care about," he said. "Otters are good for the ecosystem, fisheries, and tourism, and tourists bring money. Once you shine a light on it, people get it real quick."

Then-aquarium head scientist Kyle Van Houtan co-designed the study with CBE director of research Dr. Charles Colgan. After the study was published, Colgan provided additional perspective.

"The main point from the study was not so much the dollar value, though that's always helpful to know," he said, "but how the restoration of a species, once abundant, then largely extirpated, now is back and has great economic impact that increases the value of a popular recreational opportunity."

And that opportunity, in turn, allows for a whole new raft of possibilities for ocean wellness, beyond the otter excitement in the slough.

"We're in a money-driven world where we see things the market picks up—and not necessarily the values of being a human and the other things we care about. Otters are good for the ecosystem, fisheries, and tourism, and tourists bring money. Once you shine a light on it, people get it real quick."
—Jason Scorse

Nearly Gone

The near-death experience of her first otter orphan still sticks with Jessica Fujii.

Fujii is the aquarium's Sea Otter Program (SOP) lead, overseeing the research, rehabilitation, and surrogacy of southern sea otters.

She was out along the craggy coastline of Pebble Beach, looking for a tagged adult otter, when she heard the pup's piercing cries. She tracked them to the source and found a two-week-old baby otter trapped between steep rocks, getting smacked and smacked again by the surf. By the time the SOP rescue team arrived, the young pup was, per Fujii, "very cold" and "had swallowed a lot of sea water," but, she added, "was still fighting," even as the pup's fatigue gradually quieted her cries.

"The years I've been able to spend watching and studying sea otters in the wild has really given me a deep appreciation for the challenges sea otters face every day," she said.

That mission and its ensuing stages work as a microcosm for the aquarium's Sea Otter Program, which launched shortly after the nonprofit's debut in 1984.

Forty years later, the SOP continues to contribute mightily to global marine mammal science. It measures the success of rehabilitation, adoptive parenting, and habitat restoration; monitors populations and behavior; and has rescued 1,000 otters since its start.

The female pup was nursed by staff and volunteers, introduced to a surrogate sea otter mother, and eventually released into Elkhorn Slough, where she would birth pups of her own and help heal a water body that was itself recovering.

"Knowing that this otter got another chance to survive in the wild and therefore was able to indirectly contribute to the health of the estuary ecosystem—and how people have come to appreciate visiting Elkhorn Slough—is incredibly rewarding," Fujii said.

These days Fujii's duties include less fieldwork, as her schedule overflows with staff support, research collaboration, ecosystem studies, and policy advocacy. Her work also involves regularly renewed admiration for otter abilities—their gift for shell-busting tools tops her list—and other tasks she thinks outsiders might not expect.

"As much as people love the idea of being able to work directly with sea otters," she said, "they may be surprised by how much cleaning is involved every day, from doing laundry to cleaning food dishes and otter pools."

But she didn't think her duties would include an otter-depth dive on economics. (Southern sea otters can go 250 feet down and remain submerged for five minutes.)

"My career has been focused on sea otter ecology, so this research was a new direction for me," she said, "and a great opportunity to collaborate with and learn from experienced economists."

Van Houtan assigned Fujii to the project. The inspiration behind that emerged organically from the surrogacy work that had become a focal point for both of them.

The aquarium's nonprofit mission is "to inspire conservation of the ocean" and folds in a planetary amount of scientific work and advocacy. Their SOP team was in the midst of documenting the success of mama otters like Rosa, their first mother otter and a rescue herself, who would go on to teach 15 younger versions of her how to dive, forage, and groom.

"Our hope was to deploy surrogacy as part of a reintroduction program to help restore sea otter populations to regions of their historic population range where they had been extirpated and are currently absent," Van Houtan said.

That yearslong—and ongoing—effort led to a meeting with federal fishery managers. The enthusiasm for Van Houtan's presentation was real, and incomplete: One of the officials stated the current administration would be into surrogacy-based reintroduction only as long as there were no anticipated economic costs.

"We left the meeting with our marching orders," Van Houtan remembered. "We had to not only document the benefits of sea otter reintroduction for the sake of the sea otters themselves—and for the ecosystems where they reside—we also had to investigate the potential economic impacts of recovering sea otter populations on the West Coast."

Seen and Unseen

It's feeding time on a Sunday at Monterey Bay Aquarium's sea otter exhibit. Early afternoon sunlight prisms through the open top of the two-story land-and-sea tank, which sits at the center of the former cannery's main hall, next to the entrance, through which two million humans flow every year. The audience, which started gathering 15 minutes ago, stacks eight people deep.

Zach Wright, an aquarium naturalist tucked in a back corner on the second story, uses his microphone to encourage the crowd to take a big step back so shorter humans can filter in for a line of sight. As the late lunch session starts, the murmuring from the throng of onlookers, ages roughly 2 to 82, rises in at least four languages. The mammalogists in the exhibit float out hollow dodecahedrons the size of beach balls to the three charismatic residents, Ivy, Selka, and Ruby. With fresh shrimp and shellfish stashed inside, the geometric shapes work like larger and trickier Kong toys that demand the type of problem solving otters must deploy to thrive in the wild.

Meanwhile, narrator Wright riffs on otter uniqueness: At one million hairs per square inch, they have the thickest fur on the planet. They hunt and eat a fourth of their body weight daily. They serve as a "keystone species" that keeps thriving coastal ecosystems in balance.

He doesn't mention any economic benefits.

Making Connections

The vibe across Monterey Bay, at another nature-based destination, differs dramatically from feeding time. A meditational calm occupies the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, where picnic benches flank the airy and welcoming visitor center and its banks of feathers, fossils, and interactive exhibits.

It's a place where five miles of trails tread wild terrain spanning 1,700 acres of salt marsh, woodlands, and grasslands teeming with wildlife, including 340 species of birds, among

them sandpipers, willets, plovers, geese, and peregrine falcons.

It's a place where boatloads of marine and ecosystems research is conducted, including habitat restoration, marsh sustainability, and water quality monitoring, by a block party of expert-laden agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation.

Anthony Castelletto, a staff researcher at the Middlebury Institute and the Center for Blue Economy, moves through the reserve's visitor center on a recent autumn morning. He passes various interpretive panels displaying sea otter fun facts, which run from the more entertaining—their fur has an armpit pouch to stash food—to the more foundational.

"Sea otters are a keystone species in estuaries, affecting eelgrass beds through a complex food chain," one reads. "The eelgrass requires small grazers, like sea slugs, to keep algae from growing on it. Sea slugs are prey for crabs, and if there are too many crabs present, there are no grazers to protect the eelgrass. When sea otters enter an estuary, they eat the crabs, keeping their population in check and giving eelgrass beds an upper hand!"

The subtext feels appropriately invisible: robust residential otter populations have plenty of hard-to-observe effects, including the carbon sequestration furnished by eelgrass and the kelp forest habitat the otters steward.

As Castelletto wanders past the oversized renderings of Elkhorn Slough's resident fauna—like the huge red-shouldered hawk's claw coming through the ceiling and the four-foot-long innkeeper worm hiding in its tubular burrow—he pauses to consider the arching skeleton of a full-sized male southern sea otter.

"You can't legally buy or sell a sea otter," he says. "But you can measure if people will go out of their way to see one. And you can always translate effort to dollars and cents, which is critical for protecting the environment, as leaders making decisions always get down to dollars and cents."

Later, he elaborates.

"Giving the priceless a price lets us better understand the trade-offs in labor and money we need to protect the environment," Castelletto says.

He joined alumni from several Middlebury Institute master's programs—Jeremy Ginsberg and Chiao Ting, International Environmental Policy; Josh Bryan, International Policy and Development; and Conner Freeman, Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies—in gathering the interviews that made the study possible.

They dispersed across little Moss Landing—official census population, nine, otter-crossing street signs, two—and Elkhorn Slough, interviewing visitors about why they came, where they stayed, what they spent, and whether they'd seen otters. At times they traversed docks and the eco tour off-loading ramp; at others they stationed themselves at the visitor center, in harbor parking lots, and at kayak rental shops, their surveys unfurling 60 questions of varying specificity.

A few examples: 1) "Have you been to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey?" 2) "About how much will you spend in the Monterey Bay area today other than on meals and transportation?" and 3) "Assuring continuation of habitat, clean water, and food supply for the otters is critical. Would you pay an additional fee of $10 specifically to assure that the sea otter population stays about the same into the future?"

Castelletto—who coauthored the study and majored in public policy because he wanted to give scientific knowledge greater traction—was surprised by how "generous people were in their willingness to pay."

"People were very willing to open their wallets in order to protect the environment in terms of [prospective] usage fees," he says. "They always went over what I thought they would answer."

He was not caught off-guard by the quantity of rich statistics they'd have to collect. "One of the secrets of environmental economics is that you have to consume massive amounts of data," he says. "I call it 'translational': translate environmental data like sea level rise or coral reef health into social data like economic values, asking, 'What's this worth to you? What will you do to preserve it?'"

The study ultimately found that each year visitors contribute approximately $3.2 million in direct spending, plus another $1.85 million in indirect funds, which provides more than 300 full-time, part-time, and seasonal jobs to the region.

"Whether sea otters were observed during a trip influenced how visitors ranked their importance, and the perceived value of the estuary and sea otters," the study concluded. "Combined, this study quantified what recreational visitors could contribute to local economies and determined that sea otters play a role in what visitors valued about their visit."

As the relatively tranquil Elkhorn Slough generates that sort of economic windfall, it hints at what numbers might explode with studies conducted on the more famous otter side of Monterey Bay—or in other potential wild release locations currently under consideration, namely San Francisco and Morro Bays. That's the thing about all those otters living their best estuary lives. The buffet of mussels and innkeeper worms is all-you-can-eat, but not infinite. That happy Elkhorn Slough population is doing so well it's reached its limit for what prey can sustainably support.

Ongoing Evolution

It's hard to enjoy a higher profile than otters do around Monterey Bay. They're on sweatshirts and bumper stickers. They appear in shops as stuffed animals, keychains, and magnets, and center stage in fine art photographs and scientific illustrations. They're all over business signs and websites like See Monterey and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Which all ups the irony that the wider relevance of otters has remained low-key. But that, CBE director Scorse reminds those interested in protecting the coast, is what the Center for Blue Economy is here for. "Work like this is making the invisible visible," he said.

Now, as Sea Otter Program leadership, including Jessica Fujii, look to San Francisco Bay and Morro Bay as new homes for rehabbed and surrogate-raised otters, they are better armed with data to inform management.

"Exploring the economic value of sea otters can put measurements in terms that more people understand, and that they may feel more directly impact them," she said. "And hopefully once that bridge is built, they can also understand and appreciate the other benefits and values sea otters provide that may be harder to assign monetary value to."

Van Houtan pointed out that the economic findings pair well with previous research on how sustainable otter presence enhances ecosystem well-being, which in turn aids fishermen, including crabbers, who might resist perceived competition that wasn't there before.

"You don't have to choose between a robust economy and robust ecosystems," he said. "You can have both, and many studies suggest that they're actually linked. Though there are other good case studies, sea otters provide a great example of documented dual ecological and economic benefits."

Then he zoomed out a little further.

"When wild ecosystems thrive, so do people, and when wild ecosystems suffer, this also impacts human populations," he said. "It's an old story, but one we need to be reminded of again and again, today."

Homing back in on otters—and what we might miss without them—Van Houtan didn't refer to the millions of dollars lost in local revenues and job positions if otters, and the ecosystems they keystone, were compromised.

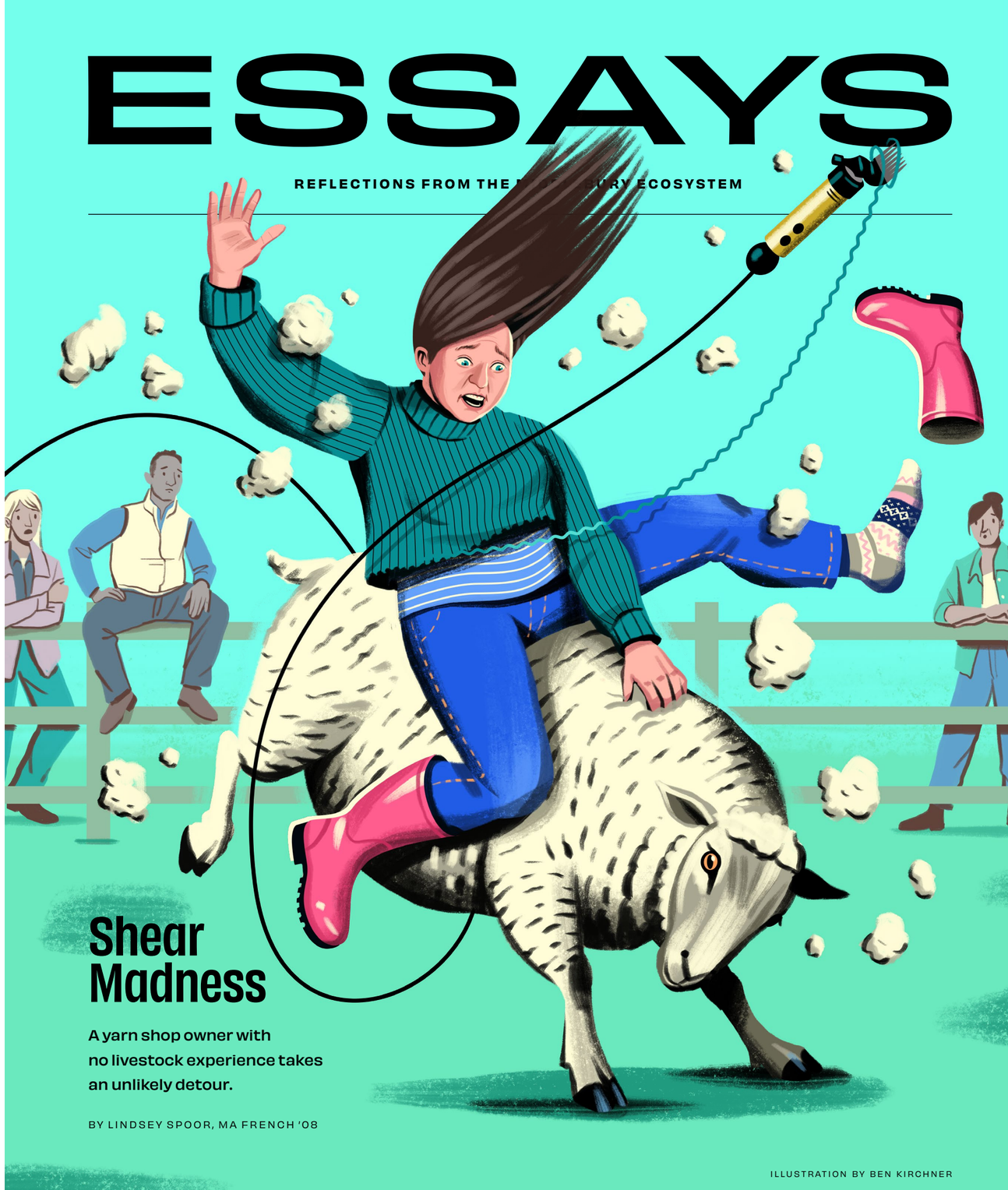
Instead, he paused before replying.

"This is a big question," he messaged after taking a moment. "Earthworms, bees, corals, trees, otters, sharks, and many other species all make the planet more habitable for us, for our species. Yet these creatures are seemingly naïve to that fact.

"We, of course, are not. Collaborations and studies like this one help us see more clearly how we are sustained by wild, thriving nature." M

ESSAYS

REFLECTIONS FROM THE [illegible]RY ECOSYSTEM

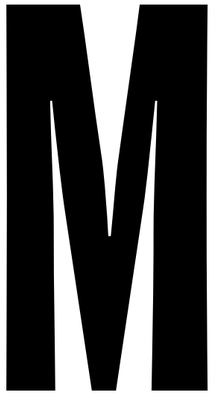


Shear Madness

A yarn shop owner with no livestock experience takes an unlikely detour.

BY LINDSEY SPOOR, MA FRENCH '08

ILLUSTRATION BY BEN KIRCHNER



MANY OF THE WARMEST HATS, SWEATERS, AND base layers we reach for this winter will be made at least in part from wool. The smell of wet wool drying on radiators and floor vents is as familiar as woodsmoke to many of us. You may even be a fiber crafter and have a new hat on your crochet hook or knitting needles right this minute. But how often do you stop to think about how that wool became yarn, or how long it took for that wool to get from an animal's body to your hands?

I have been working in the fiber arts industry for nearly 15 years and have owned a local independent yarn shop in a rural area north of Seattle, Washington, for eight years. Just after things started to open up after COVID-19 lockdowns, a couple of local friends opened a wool processing mill. I quickly learned about the variety of products beyond yarn and hand-spinning wool that could be produced for general use in various industries: insulation, pellets for garden use, and sheets of felt, to name a few.

At roughly the same time, I started receiving a few calls each month from people inquiring about finding shearers for their sheep. It seemed like these calls were related to people moving to our relatively rural area and buying property during lockdowns, then purchasing a few sheep as both pets and a solution for vegetation management; most of the time, these were people new to livestock ownership. However, sheep are a well-established part of many farms and homesteads in our area, so I wondered why they couldn't find someone to help them. A conversation with my mill-owning friends provided a simple answer: there aren't enough shearers. And there certainly aren't enough shearers who will work with the "microflocks" (flocks of fewer than 10 sheep) that are common in our area of the country—it's just not cost-effective for most professionals to set up for such small groups of animals.

After doing some research, I decided to apply to the Washington State Shearing School. It is one of the only shearing schools in the United States that run for longer than two or three days and one of the only shearing schools that take anyone— not just sheep owners—as students. I neither own sheep nor have really worked with livestock seriously at any point in my life, so this seemed like a sign. I like sheep. I like wool, I reasoned. It's hard work, but wouldn't it be amazing to be able to help make shearing more accessible—and help spread the word about the possibilities of wool as a renewable resource? Besides, full immersion in the animal-focused side of the industry would give me unique insight into the factors that impact those of us who normally work with more refined products in the fiber arts supply chain; drought, animal health, and nutrition all play roles in the price and quality of wool, which eventually impacts the end-customer price of yarn.

In late December 2023, I was notified that I had been accepted for the 2024 session in Moses Lake, Washington. I started strength training in earnest and studying shearing position diagrams to get familiar with the work ahead. My shop community helped cover the costs; registration fees, gas, a hotel room, and food for a week added up to nearly $1,500, not to mention the financial impact of closing down my business for a week. In return for that material support, I decided to post a live video each night on the shop's Instagram account so the public could follow along. I figured it would be a unique way to share my journey, and maybe a few people would gain a greater appreciation for what it takes to bring wool-based yarn to our shelves.

Nothing could have prepared me for what came next. You can watch videos and talk to people about it, but nothing compares to actually being on a shearing floor with live animals. Online interest in the process far exceeded the few people I expected, and it spread wider than I would have thought possible . . . including to the offices of *Midd Magazine*. This is not how I planned to ever write for the alumni magazine, as it is about as far as you can get from an MA in French; however, as the Language Pledge® shows us, we can do hard things and benefit from full immersion in knowledge, interactions, and processes. Here, then, is a brief summary of my shearing school experience, taken from my live videos.

Day 1: I figured out my philosophy for the week: "I didn't die. I didn't kill any sheep. I didn't hurt my sheep beyond repair. Therefore, today was a success." I sheared one sheep. My lack of livestock experience put me behind everyone else in the class, and I gave great thought to walking away at lunchtime and not coming back. However, as one of our instructors said, every single shearer ever has been through this process. We're not the first people to do this work, and we won't be the last. One of our shop mottos is to be brave enough to be bad at something, and I decided that I might as well own it.

Day 2: Two and a half sheep shorn. A better day, despite one sheep emptying its bladder on me and another one kicking a hole in my brand-new pair of work pants. At this point, I started to realize how physically unprepared I was for shearing school, how being short presents serious challenges to the ability to run through the shearing positions, and how much harder it is to learn to shear when you are also learning how to handle livestock for the first time.

Day 3: Four sheep shorn. I learned that bodychecking sheep to keep them from running away is one of my strengths. I also got some valuable lessons in sheep anatomy, including a run-in with shearing a long-tailed sheep and shearing around pizzles. This is also the day where I started learning which liniments and ointments work best for different aches, pains, and bruises.

Day 4: This was the day where my body said enough was enough. Eight months later, I'm still not sure if I sheared 1.5 sheep or 2.5 sheep, but it was the day where I got brave enough to walk away rather than pushing beyond my comfort level or capacity with a brand-new skill. After lunch on Day 4, the sheep that came in were eye level with my shoulder (just about four feet off the ground) and easily over 200 pounds per animal. As I later told friends, "Those aren't sheep at that point. Those are ponies." I knew that it would be a struggle to physically manage them, that I would likely injure myself just getting them out of the pre-shearing containment area, and that I was not comfortable attempting the shearing positions with animals that big. I walked away and decided to watch a stand shearing demonstration with competition-grade show sheep instead. It is hard to take that lump, but if your goal is not to die, not to kill sheep, and to keep all the people and animals safe from harm as much as possible, it is the necessary lump to take.

Day 5: The last day of shearing school was, oddly, the one where I sheared the fewest sheep. As I pulled the first one out of the containment area, she kicked and knocked me flat on the ground while I continued to hold her; this sandwiched me between her and the floor. After getting in position and starting the first shearing position, I realized I had popped something in my back and was going to end up seriously injuring myself if I didn't stop immediately. It felt like failure to walk away from the work so quickly, but it also felt like not walking away would result in violating the "no dying, no serious injury" rule. This is also the day where I learned that you can, in fact, sweat a prescription-strength lidocaine patch off your back. (Physically recovering from shearing school took the better part of six weeks.)

Since finishing shearing school in April 2024, I have shorn two sheep solo, assisted with two more, and worked on adjacent animal care tasks that we did not get to practice in shearing school. I am incredibly lucky to have a local shearing mentor who can accompany me to job sites and help me learn adaptive shearing techniques that were not a part of the shearing school program. I am still very slow—my best time currently is 25 minutes for one sheep, far from the two or three minutes per animal you see on TikTok—but I am still dedicated to finding my spot in the shearing ecosystem and helping shepherds take the best possible care of their animals, even in the smallest flocks. M

Apocalypse Now?

The "A" word is getting tossed around more and more. What could that mean?

BY ERIK BLEICH AND CHRISTOPHER STAR

THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF artificial intelligence over the past year has sparked discussions about whether the era of human domination of our planet is drawing to a close. The most dire predictions claim that the machines will take over within five to 10 years.

Fear of AI is not the only thing driving public concern about the end of the world. Climate change and pandemic diseases are also well-known threats. Reporting on these challenges and dubbing them potential "apocalypses" has become common in the media—so common, in fact, that it might go unnoticed, or may simply be written off as hyperbole.

Is the use of the word *apocalypse* in the media significant? Our common interest in how the American public understands apocalyptic threats brought us together to answer this question. One of us is a scholar of the apocalypse in the ancient world, and the other studies press coverage of contemporary concerns.

By tracing what events the media describe as "apocalyptic," we can gain insight into our changing fears about potential catastrophes. We have found that discussions of the apocalypse unite the ancient and modern, the religious and secular, and the revelatory and the rational. They show how a term with roots in classical Greece and early Christianity helps us articulate our deepest anxieties today.

What is an apocalypse?

Humans have been fascinated by the demise of the world since ancient times. However, the word *apocalypse* was not intended to convey this preoccupation. In Greek, the verb *apokalyptein* originally meant simply "to uncover," or "to reveal."

In his dialogue *Protagoras*, Plato used this term to describe how a doctor may ask a patient to uncover his body for a medical exam. He

also used it metaphorically when he asked an interlocutor to reveal his thoughts.

New Testament authors used the noun *apokalypsis* to refer to the "revelation" of God's divine plan for the world. In the original Koine Greek version, *apokalypsis* is the first word of the Book of Revelation, which describes not only the impending arrival of a painful inferno for sinners, but also a second coming of Christ that will bring eternal salvation for the faithful.

The Apocalypse in the Contemporary World

Many American Christians today feel that the day of God's judgment is just around the corner. In a December 2022 Pew Research Center Survey, 39 percent of those polled believed they were "living in the end times," while 10 percent said that Jesus will "definitely" or "probably" return in their lifetime.

Yet for some believers, the Christian apocalypse is not viewed entirely negatively. Rather, it is a moment that will elevate the righteous and cleanse the world of sinners.

Secular understandings of the word, by contrast, rarely include this redeeming element. An apocalypse is more commonly understood as a cataclysmic, catastrophic event that will irreparably alter our world for the worse. It is something to avoid, not something to await.

What We Fear Most, Decade by Decade

Political communications scholars Christopher Wlezien and Stuart Soroka demonstrate in their research that the media are likely to reflect public opinion even more than they direct it or alter it. While their study focused largely on Americans' views of important policy decisions, their findings, they argue, apply beyond those domains.

If they are correct, we can use discussions of the apocalypse in the media over the past few decades as a barometer of prevailing public concerns.

Following this logic, we collected all articles mentioning the words "apocalypse" or "apocalyptic" from the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post* between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 2023. After filtering out articles centered on religion and entertainment, there were 9,380 articles that mentioned one or more of four prominent apocalyptic concerns: nuclear war, disease, climate change, and AI.

Through the end of the Cold War, fears of nuclear apocalypse predominated not only in the newspaper data we assembled, but also in visual media such as the 1983 postapocalyptic film *The Day After*, which was watched by as many as 100 million Americans.

By the 1990s, however, articles linking the word *apocalypse* to climate and disease—in roughly equal measure—had surpassed those focused on nuclear war. By the 2000s, and even more so during the 2010s, newspaper attention had turned squarely in the direction of environmental concerns.

The 2020s disrupted this pattern. COVID-19 caused a spike in articles mentioning the pandemic. There were almost three times as many stories linking disease to the apocalypse in the first four years of this decade as in the entire 2010s.

In addition, while AI was practically absent from media coverage through 2015, recent technological breakthroughs generated more apocalypse articles touching on AI than on nuclear concerns in 2023 for the first time ever.

What Should We Fear Most?

Do the apocalyptic fears we read about most actually pose the greatest danger to humanity? Some journalists have recently issued warnings that a nuclear war is more plausible than we realize.

That jibes with the perspective of scientists responsible for the Doomsday Clock who track what they think of as the critical threats to human existence. They focus principally on nuclear concerns, followed by climate, biological threats, and AI.

It might appear that the use of apocalyptic language to describe these challenges represents an increasing secularization of the concept. For example, the philosopher Giorgio Agamben has argued that the media's portrayal of COVID-19 as a potentially apocalyptic event reflects the replacement of religion with science. Similarly, the cultural historian Eva Horn has asserted that the contemporary vision of the end of the world is an apocalypse without God.

Humans have been fascinated by the demise of the world since ancient times. However, the word *apocalypse* was not intended to convey this preoccupation.

However, as the Pew poll demonstrates, apocalyptic thinking remains common among American Christians.

The key point is that both religious and secular views of the end of the world make use of the same word. The meaning of *apocalypse* has thus expanded in recent decades from an exclusively religious idea to include other, more human-driven apocalyptic scenarios, such as a "nuclear apocalypse," a "climate apocalypse," a "COVID-19 apocalypse," or an "AI apocalypse."

In short, the reporting of apocalypses in the media does indeed provide a revelation—not of how the world will end but of the ever-increasing ways in which it could end. It also reveals a paradox: that people today often envision the future most vividly when they revive and adapt an ancient word. M

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A version of this essay originally appeared in The Conversation.

ILLUSTRATION BY SANDRO RYBAK

Tracking the Mayors Making a Difference

To better understand issues around the globe, a writer has spent nearly a decade talking to local leaders.

BY ANTHONY FLINT '84

I've been consorting with a bunch of mayors lately, and I must say I've been impressed. Particularly at this time in our history, when local leaders who are working on big issues like climate action and affordable housing are going to be more consequential than ever.

It wasn't always this way. The first mayor I covered as a young newspaper reporter in Torrington, Connecticut, was indicted on corruption-related perjury charges shortly after I arrived. The chief executive in the next city I moved to, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, championed a long-term contract with a water purification vendor, and then promptly joined the company in a high-paying senior position.

ILLUSTRATION BY KLAWE RZECZY

As Tishaura Jones, mayor of St. Louis, put it when asked how she perseveres: "The answer I usually give is that I rely on three things: Jesus, my Peloton, and bourbon, and not always in that order."

The current generation of municipal leaders is quite a contrast: genuine, honest, creative, and action oriented. Just a marvelous group of essentially urban planners and policy wonks.

I have drawn these conclusions from interviewing two dozen municipal chief executives over the last eight years for a series called "Mayor's Desk," published in *Land Lines* magazine at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy—the think tank where I landed after leaving the *Boston Globe*. Most of those conversations were also recorded for the *Land Matters* podcast, and the first 20 were compiled in a book, *Mayor's Desk: 20 Conversations with Local Leaders Solving Global Problems,* published in partnership with Columbia University Press.

Our remit was to ask these leaders about issues that are central to our work—and that just so happen to be some of the most pressing, on-the-ground issues that voters are concerned with, like housing and climate change and public transportation. Underneath those topics, of course, are the technical details of zoning and land use regulation and infrastructure finance. Catnip for everyone involved.

But it's the nuts and bolts that make cities work. Paige Cognetti, mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania, ordered a "walkability audit" to help make downtown more inviting. Minneapolis mayor Jacob Frey oversaw a ban on single-family-only zoning, a move that allowed more density and pushed rents down. Mayor Jesse Arreguín pushed for a vacancy tax in Berkeley to free up more housing and discourage real estate speculation. Phoenix mayor Kate Gallego battled intense heat and water shortages by encouraging rock gardens and native plantings over sterile lawns. Mayor Randall Woodfin established a federal grants command center in Birmingham, Alabama, to make sure every dollar coming from Washington was well spent.

There are leadership lessons here. All that attention to detail tends to produce targeted, near-term wins that pay off in terms of both symbolic value and immediate impact. Cincinnati mayor Aftab Pureval, worried that the city's recent popularity as a climate haven could intensify gentrification, worked with the Port of Cincinnati to outbid institutional investors for nearly 200 homes now available to income-qualified families. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, who appointed Africa's first chief heat officer, collaborated with the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center to install protective shades in open-air markets where women vendors had been subjected to withering heat.

Burlington, Vermont—of course there's a Vermont angle!—stands out as an example of local action on big issues, whether in establishing one of the nation's first and most successful community land trusts or in running the municipal electrical utility that will help the city be net zero energy by 2030. My interview was with Miro Weinberger, yet another no-nonsense, just-get-it-done brand of leader.

Reflecting on the experience of interviewing all these mayors brings me backward but also looking to the future. The world keeps setting new standards for what can be described as turbulent times, but most of these interviews occurred during the era of the George Floyd murder, a traumatic pandemic of then-unknown resolution, climate disasters, and the wild swings of national politics. Leading cities in such relentless conditions has been a real test of personal fortitude. And despite a 2021 National League of Cities survey indicating that more than 80 percent of local elected officials had experienced threats and harassment, virtually all the interviewees showed poise and what seemed to be genuine good humor.

As Tishaura Jones, mayor of St. Louis, put it when asked how she perseveres: "The answer I usually give is that I rely on three things: Jesus, my Peloton, and bourbon, and not always in that order."

Another truth emerged in all this mayoral chronicling. These leaders are all diligently doing their jobs, but at the same time many of them are rising stars with higher political aspirations. Not long after our interview covering the nuances of building climate resilience, Boston mayor Marty Walsh became President Biden's labor secretary. Berkeley's Arreguín is now a state senator. Oakland mayor Libby Schaaf, term-limited out, is running for state treasurer of California. At least three other non-U.S. interviewees—Seoul mayor Oh Se-hoon, Bogotá mayor Claudia López, and Athens mayor Kostas Bakoyannis—are considered credible candidates to be the next presidents of their respective nations.

Exactly three mayors have become U.S. presidents: Andrew Johnson, Grover Cleveland, and Calvin Coolidge.

But while some may yet reach those heights, in the meantime they will be doing important work at the local level, which is looking like it's going to be the place to make the most significant policy contributions—in affordable housing, climate action, and basic infrastructure. I'm remembering my exchange with Marvin Rees, then mayor of Bristol, England, who predicted a continuing "post-national" environment where bottom-up innovation will flourish. "We can't leave our futures in the hands of national governments," he said. "Cities are equipped with the political machinery to lead the way." M

ANTHONY FLINT '84 IS A SENIOR FELLOW AT THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY, A THINK TANK BASED IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

CLASS ACTS

NOTES, HAPPENINGS, AND MISSIVES FROM YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI

Words in Space

A NASA interpreter bridges the language gap, one mission at a time

For most graduates picturing where their future careers might take them, the phrase "the sky's the limit" is optimistic hyperbole. But for Middlebury Institute graduate Tatiana Lind MATI '08, it was an understatement.

Lind, a native of Siberia, was pursuing her master's in Russian language interpretation and translation when a NASA contractor visited the Monterey, California, campus to recruit language specialists. Lind took (and aced) the NASA recruiter's language test, the first step on a path that led to her joining the flight control team at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, after graduation. Today, as a freelance interpreter, she facilitates communication between the control team and Russian crew members aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

In 2023, Lind received a Silver Snoopy Award, an honor bestowed on fewer than 1 percent of NASA employees and contractors each year. The award recognized her support of Crew-5, the fifth crew to travel to and from the ISS on the SpaceX *Dragon Endurance* spacecraft. Among the crew's four members was Anna Kikina, Russia's only active female cosmonaut, with whom Lind discovered a connection beyond their native language: the two women hailed from the same remote region of Siberia.

As a liaison between Russians and Americans, Lind sees firsthand how the ISS program "operates outside of—or perhaps despite—geopolitical friction. In a recent Institute news article, she said, "This is the most remarkable achievement of the program—not something technical or the conducting of any experiments, but individuals and cultures working together for larger benefit. For me that's one of the greatest motivators: unfortunately or fortunately, this is more or less the last frontier."

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVIDE BONAZZI

CLASS ACTS

Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)
Hannah Burnett '10, *President* • Mohan Renganathan '96, *Vice President* • David Ellis '09, *Past President*
Catherine Blizzard '20 • Steve Bouchard '76 • Michael Chorske '90 • Kate Bailey French '93
Jasmin Johnson '05 • Casey Mahoney '11, MANPTS '12 • Jason Robart '87 • Nia Robinson '19
Julisa Salas '10 • Beth Prasse Seeley '70 • Laura Woodward Tufts '03 • Beth Dorion Wyer '85

Ex Officio: Meg Storey Groves '85, Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Programs
Beth Connor, Director of Alumni and Parent Programs

1943

The family of **Phil Backup** let us know that he died on March 9, 2024, at the age of 102. Even though he was dealing with heart failure his last few months, he managed to visit and reminisce with friends and family, demonstrating that he managed to always live his life on his own terms, even at the end. His longevity and energy were amazing, and even as recently as 2020, he was playing golf at age 98. In January of that year, he hit his ball straight and true and had a hole-in-one on the par-3 ninth at the Greens in Redmond, Ore. He grew up in Vermont and received his MD from UVM, spending his career in anesthesiology and serving in the Army Reserves. Retiring at age 61, he lived on Vashon Island, Wash., with wife Ruth, where "he thrived being a beachcomber, blackberry picker, firewood cutter, and all-around fun guy." When asked what he thought accounted for his long life, he answered, "Eating good quality food in sensible amounts, marrying a native Alaskan nurse who helps take care of me, and always voting Democrat." He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

1946

Joannie Wales sent the sad news that her mother, **Betsy Barclay Wales**, died on July 30, 2024, at the age of 99. She married Gilman "Ozzie" Wales in 1951, and they lived in Norwell, Mass., where she was active in education and instrumental, with Ozzie, of starting the American Field Service (AFS) program in town and hosting the first AFS student. Moving to Yarmouth, Maine, she pursued her love of art and studied at the Univ. of Southern Maine and the Maine College of Art and exhibited her beautiful watercolors. She was a lifelong athlete, starring in track, basketball, and field hockey, and she enjoyed recreational skiing and tennis. Her family remembers her piano playing while singing old tunes or inventing her own. Husband Ozzie predeceased her but their four children survive her along with numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She will be greatly missed by them all.

1947

I have had a hard time this year getting an intelligent message together for you, so please know it will be a half-report only. According to the information from Middlebury, there are 18 '47ers alive. That number, however, is questionable, for some people have recognized other deceased members listed in that report. The problem I have is no telephone numbers, so I would appreciate it very much if members of the Class of '47 (still living of course) would send me their telephone numbers. If I do not have the telephone number, I cannot answer your questions or send a new report on membership.

Tiffany Clark Nourse has moved into EastView in Middlebury and had the good luck to be placed across the hall from **Alice Neef Perine**. They get together each day after the supper meal. It is easier for them living opposite each other to play their weekly four or five games of Cribbage after supper. Tiffany is very comfortable at EastView and is happy that she made the change. She has suggested that I contact Sara Marshall and ask her about the game they have invented, which she called "Quad."

My "children" gave me a big bash on the occasion of my 100th birthday. I had thought I did not want a celebration, but I must confess it was great fun and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was a morning brunch and held out of doors. Years ago I wrote a story about my husband's cane, which he constantly lost. My older "children" had it illustrated and published as a birthday present for me. I was truly touched and have enjoyed my book. My niece is a wonderful guide and helper. She drives me wherever I have to go so that I don't have to walk. Tomorrow we will await two guests from Kenya. They did a lot of traveling while here and we did not have too much time together as my guide is busy getting her house ready to sell.

I was pleased to receive an email from Debbie Costello '75, **Ginny Lee Costello**'s daughter. Ginny has left her apartment in Boston and moved into Hebrew Senior Living in Boston. She found getting around after hip surgery too difficult and took steps to improve it.

If you will send me your telephone number, I would appreciate it very much as I can call and speak with each of you and write even more next time.

—Class Correspondent: Jeannette Atkins Louth (wmjalouth@comcast.net), 99 Depot Road West, West Harwich, MA 02671.

1948

If you have any news you'd like to share with the class, please send it to Sara Marshall, *Middlebury Magazine*, 2 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

1949

Correspondent **Dixon Hemphill** made it back to campus for his 75th Reunion last June. "Sons Jim and Pete drove me from home in Fairfax, Va., to Midd in a terrific rainstorm on June 7. We had a wonderful time visiting the Davis Library, Deke House, and Proctor, and attended the Convocation in the chapel. I spoke there along with the other Reunion spokespersons. It was fun to hear the canes tapping—a great Midd tradition. I hope we can return for my 80th Reunion, but will I live until 104?" He then remarked that he and Jim Davis '66 had some things in common. "I sold New Balance shoes for 10 years at the two running stores I owned—they became top-selling shoes after Jim bought the original New Balance store and turned it into a billion-dollar enterprise. I also ran on the Midd track that he donated to Middlebury."

—Class Correspondents: Dixon Hemphill (dixonH999@gmail.com), 10910 Olm Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Rachel Adkins Platt (rplatt27@gmail.com), 1 Sinclair Dr., Apt. 131, Pittsford, NY 14534.

1950

REUNION CLASS

If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, *Middlebury Magazine*, 2 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu. And remember that our 75th Reunion is June 6–8!

1951

John Guetens sent the sad news that his father, **Jack Guetens**, of Cheshire, Conn., passed away on May 6 at the age of 95. At Middlebury, Jack majored in economics and was a four-year member of the hockey team and part of the inaugural season of the lacrosse team. He continued to be an avid fan of hockey and coached at the youth, high school, and college levels. He had a long career as a purchasing manager for a firearms manufacturer and his hobbies and interests included sports car racing, tennis, and competing in model airplane competitions throughout New England. After serving in the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1954, he met Evelyn Mawhinney in a New York City cab, and they were married in 1960. They had two sons, Vernon and John, and enjoyed four grandchildren. He will be missed by his family and friends.

I (**Lee**) heard a speaker in December, at my assisted living residence, who was talking about the White House Christmas tree. He said that in 1923, Middlebury donated the very first tree to be put up at the White House. I thought that was very interesting, and I applauded when he told us that! I was the only one who applauded, of course, but I couldn't help it! I felt very proud!

—Class Correspondent: Lee Webster McArthur (bobleemca@gmail.com), 240 Springfield Ave., Ste. I, Westfield, NJ 07090.

1952

I find this stage sad, but here is a list of recent class losses I received from the College: **Nina Shapiro Agel** died last April, **Bob Morgan** died in June, and **Bob Bates** and **Gene Dix** died in September. Meanwhile, **Sally Baldwin Utiger** is as always her energetic self and **Shirley Herrman Andrews** still moves between California and Massachusetts.

I hope all my classmates are doing well. Please send me your latest news!

—Class Correspondent: Barbara Cummiskey Villet (villetb2@gmail.com), 208 Eagleville Rd., Shushan, NY 12873.

1953

Your classmates would love to know what you are up to and so would I! Please email me at the address below.

—Class Correspondent: Roger May (rogermay93I@gmail.com), 3 Chadwell Pl., Morristown, NJ 07960.

1954

Correspondent **Julie Howard Parker** reports: Since our poignant 70th Reunion—with eight of us stalwart classmates showing up, most of whom live or spend summers close to Middlebury—I have had dear correspondences with those who came and a few who could not come. **Peter** and I (two healthy Parkers) had only to travel 45 minutes to attend, so of course we wanted to be present. **Lois Wanstall Kaufmann** lives in Middlebury and we three had a lovely dinner in Proctor Friday night with two others—a close friend of Lois and a cousin, Jean Eisenhart, of Julie's, a Middlebury graduate in 1961. By Saturday, **Peter Neisser** had arrived with a new friend, Abby, crossing on the Trans Canadian Railway from Vancouver to Montreal. It sounds like a dream, but Abby painted a more realistic picture of train travel challenges. Peter is a California lawyer who never misses a Reunion. He has written quite a memoir of his Middlebury days and was tall and smiling the whole weekend. Next, **Jim Hunt** and the widow of **Russ Briggs** came from Concord, N.H., and Jim gallantly represented our class from the chapel podium by reading a memoir of our years at Middlebury. **Cecily Mattocks Marshall** also arrived Saturday and had the support of a grandson who is a Middlebury graduate. Cecily often gives presentations with others who suffered like her missionary family did in the Philippine camps as WWII Japanese prisoners. She has written a book about her experience titled *Happy Life Blues*. We had good talks with her. I had a nice connection with **Joan Emerson Sleinkofer,** who lives in the middle of the Adirondacks in Rainbow Lake. She came with her delightful son who looked a little like a kindly smiling Einstein and turned out to have lived quite a spiritual journey.

It was delightful to see Joan and **Dick Schmidt**. Peter enjoyed reminiscing with Dick about taking his father's geology class, which encouraged Peter's lifelong interest in the earth's formation. We connected with Dick's family at Saturday night's great dinner under a huge tent, where Laurie Patton came around with her giant white Great Pyrenees canine companion and introduced him to all of us, along with smiles from our great Midd president, who has now left us. I feel sad. The real tearjerker for me was walking up toward Middlebury Chapel on Saturday for Convocation while crowds of younger Midd families cheered and clapped and shouted—and then a special procession of us, at the end, after all the chapel pews were filled with younger classes, buoyed us to the front. There the seven of us lined up, facing a wild crowd of admiring younger alumni, tapping canes, clapping and shouting and waving, until I couldn't control tears. One especially meaningful moment early on Saturday was a gathering of our class with the five or six from the Class of 1949 in McCullough Student Center. The College had arranged a Service of Remembrance for all our classmates who have died, listing in particular all those who have predeceased us since June 2019. Some of our closest friends were on that list. A beautiful poem was selected by our alumni staff, Susan Miller, Beth Connor, and Alyssa Sinclair. I found it worth remembering for my own memorial: "All Is Well," by Henry Scott Holland. Please look it up.

Barbara Slate Abbott has become a great writing buddy, sharing first the joy of her great-grandson being born, and more recently the death of her husband and preparing to downsize to an in-law apartment. She is busy sorting a lifetime of memories, a slow job since everything has a story. She and I write to each other in French part of the time.

Joanne Verbryck Kissinger sent a dear note after reading my chapbook, *The Yoke*, which I sent to her, which includes the first chapters

SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZHENIA VASILIEV

of my book that will be released before Valentine's Day 2025 (*Journey Beyond Despair: A Memoir of Love, Psychosis, and the Power of Insight*). She realized something was wrong with me—a "vast change"—when I returned from that student year in France. Jo has had family visits from son Scott and wife, and visits from her grandchildren and one great-grandson, who is three and a half.

Joan Sleinkofer sent me a lovely note with a photo of the Upper Saranac Lake Island Chapel, where she has attended services for 35 years in summer and serves as a board member and treasurer. She caught COVID but took it as an opportunity for a rest cure and got well. She also read my chapbook and kindly wrote, "How beautifully you write." I will let you all know when it has been released!

Lois Kaufmann, our enduring friend nearby in summer, is looking forward to reading the notes sent in by all who were able to write a brief update of where and how they are now. We too will be eager to receive the upcoming album of the Class of 1954, 70 marvelous years.

—Class Correspondents: Julie Howard Parker (julieparkerbonjour@gmail.com), 1929 Meadowbrook Rd., Altadena, CA 91001; Tom Ryan (trn@aol.com), 8580 Woodway Dr., Apt. 8-1104, Houston, TX 77063.

1955

REUNION CLASS

Alli Lank writes, "Like many of our classmates, I turned 90 this year. Explains why I have no interesting news! As I don't get out anymore, I have lots of time for thinking and reminiscing. One recent thought is that Middlebury had a huge role to play in my eventual choice of profession. I so enjoyed the academic experience at Midd that I left my first job—in industry—to teach in an international business school in Geneva, Switzerland. After three years there, I decided I had to get a doctorate so at the ripe age of 37, I ended up at the Harvard Business School and received my Doctor of Business Administration four years later. Then I went back to the business school in Geneva (later in Lausanne) and stayed there until retirement, except for a two-year stint as director general of the Foundation of the International School of Geneva, still the biggest (in number of students) in its category. I never would have guessed in 1955 that I would spend most of my career in academia." (Sadly, we learned Alli died on December 30.)

Bob Gallagher reports, "This past year Ruth and I did our usual fly-fishing trip and visited a granddaughter in Montana, then stopped in Illinois to visit relatives, attended the Philadelphia Orchestra in Saratoga, N.Y., and went to Fenway to cheer the Red Sox. Ruth helped create and coordinate a successful women's invitational golf tournament and played a lot of golf. I played some early season golf with one of my sons, but had an injury which sidelined me. It also restricted my usual gardening efforts but despite that, our flowers were terrific this past summer." He and Ruth were off to the Southwest for a couple weeks to tour some parks in September. Fortunately, they are in good health, he says, "according to our medical teams." He adds, "I was pleased to see **Les Streeter** was inducted into the Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame. Les and I grew up together in Northfield, Vt. We were also roommates at Midd and stayed in touch and crossed paths until his tragic death in 1986."

Jojo Kittell Corey says, "John, thank you for continuing to do this! I had a good year—sort of! I was able to go to the ECAC hockey championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., staying with my son, Chris Gallagher, and his wife, Patti. In August I went to Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, N.Y., with my daughter, Lynn. We saw *Pagliacci* and *The Pirates of Penzance*—both great, as usual. I also had a wonderful visit with Abbie Kreh Gibson '53, who was my junior counselor and is an usher there and is vice president of the guild. Then I went to what was supposed to be a normal mastectomy and ended up having a stroke in the hospital! I am recuperating well now but my life is changing! Stay tuned. I plan to move in with my son, Chris, up near Lake Placid soon."

Alan Gould is always quick to respond to my request for news. He sent me two CDs of the Dissipated 8, covering many years.

As for me, Liddy and I spent most of October last year in the UK. We visited friends and my two godchildren in London. (One is the son of an old and dear Brit and the other is the daughter of my oldest friend, who married a Brit.) Then we spent a week with a couple from Massachusetts on a wonderful barge trip on the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness. Five stars! I had some medical issues in the New Year, but Mass General Hospital got me back on track. I keep very busy, doing more writing than drawing these days. A new edition of *The Case for Edward de Vere as the real William Shakespeare* came out and there's a new video on the Shakespeare Authorship Question hosted by the Kent Memorial Library. My newest book, *A Knickerbocker Legacy,* will be published soon. More about that next time.

Look for a photo of a birthday celebration of classmates on page 85.

—Class Correspondent: John M. Baker (bakerjmb8569@gmail.com), 76 Spooner Hill Rd., South Kent, CT 06785.

1956

When **Lynne Atherton** wrote, she was just back from an exhilarating choir residency, singing all services for a week at Canterbury Cathedral, which dates back to 597 AD. This was her choir's sixth such residency since 2000. Lynne continues to be involved with her church's Prison Pen Pal Program and is prayerful for prison and gun reform.

We hope our classmates are doing well. We would love to hear your news so please send it to the emails below!

—Class Correspondents: Joan Mackinnon Houghton (joanmhoughton@gmail.com), 18 Horizon Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850; Simon Marchand (lsimonmarchand@gmail.com), 29 Montadale Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540.

1957

Marty Johnson Moore Wooldridge reports: I have taken over our class news and I want to thank **Ida Mae Johnson** for keeping us up-to-date in recent years. She lives in Poultney, Vt., across from a small river but escaped the heavy flooding which hit the state this past summer. She was happy about her beautiful hydrangeas and trees, the lushest in years! Her highest heat was in the high 80s, quite lower than many of us who hail from more southern climes. For reading, she recommends *Slaves in the Family* by Edward Ball.

Frankie Hall continues to live in Annapolis, Md., at Ginger Cove, a CCRC on Gingerville Creek, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Her home since 2012, Annapolis is a delightful town in a lovely setting on the water. She plays croquet, attends lectures at St. John's College, works with the Ginger Cove Newcomer Program, and serves on the Annapolis Life Care Board. Still in reasonably good health, Frankie, in the last few years, enjoyed a spectacular trip to the Canadian Rockies and a colorful and delightful trip to northern Europe in tulip season—8,000 tulips were in bloom at the Keukenhof Gardens!

I (**Marty**) also live at Ginger Cove and work with Frankie welcoming and orienting newcomers. However, my major "job" is writing, editing, and laying out the monthly newsletter on the computer and sending it to the printer. I get to interview all new residents to write their bios and then try to connect new people with current residents. I am still traveling, and I enjoyed a Windstar Mediterranean cruise to Portugal, Morocco, and Spain with my granddaughter this past April/May.

Hugh Marlow describes his life in Middlebury as "nothing very exciting but I'm grateful to spend time watching student-athletes as they defend themselves and the College that they represent. A number of them lower their standards and allow me to be their honorary waterboy!" In the past Hugh accompanied athletic teams on road trips, always a treat. His conclusions: "Our alma mater has changed since the '50s but is still a wonderful location for a superb education."

Other classmate news: **Adrienne Littlewood DeLaney** enjoyed a short trip to the Finger Lakes with friends from her CCRC in Lancaster, Pa. **Betsy Mathewson Bailey** (Falls Church, Va.) and **Pete Howell** (Yarmouth Port, Mass.) discovered that her son and his daughter are both Middlebury graduates, 1981 and 1982 respectively. Daughter Julie Howell Kimbell has moved into Pete and Lee's former house in Orleans on the Cape. **Florence "Jay" "Junior" Everest Harrison** has moved to Balfour Senior Living in Denver, Colo.

We are sad to report two deaths: **Gerry Raymond Custer** died on July 27. **Kathy Platt Potier** remembers summer visits with Gerry and Bob in Corvallis, Ore., with Gerry as tour guide, visiting scenic and historic attractions, wineries, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. A vacation in New Zealand was another shared adventure. And Pam Tuttle sent the sad news that husband **Dave Tuttle** died on July 2. Dave was a strong supporter of Midd over the years. He enjoyed being a Chi Psi while at the College, and after graduation served in the Army. After earning an MBA from NYU and being elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, the honorary business school society, he had a long career in business. In retirement, painting was a passion as was fly-fishing and tennis. He will be greatly missed by his family.

For our next class news, I will return to our former practice of sending requests to one-third of the class at a time—so stay tuned!

—Class Correspondent: Marty Johnson Moore Wooldridge (wooldridgemartha5@gmail.com), 5305 River Crescent Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.

1958

If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to me. I am sure your classmates would love to know what you are doing!

—Class Correspondent: Susan Daniell Phillips (dhp1012@bellsouth.net), 725 Ninth Ave., Apt. 1106, Seattle, WA 98104.

1959

Correspondent **Anne Martin Hartmann** reports: Middlebury, Class of '59, it was our 65th Reunion! Some 47 of us attended (26 classmates) on June 7 to 9, and we weren't disappointed. In fact, we were delighted, inspired, grateful, and moved by the whole experience. We were housed in Hepburn Hall on the first floor, a very convenient location. Highlights were many and varied. We had our own tea with President Laurie Patton, who has left after a very successful term as president. We had our own lovely service of remembrance for classmates who have died. We found the loss of so many classmates sobering. There was a veterans and public service gathering, which some attended. A surprise to many of us, the Moth-style storytelling was outstanding. We had bus tours of the ever-growing campus and a lecture about the College's great progress in energy conservation. Of course, Saturday afternoon Convocation was a highlight, as always. The College made every effort at accommodation, with golf carts available for rides around campus. Staff Alyssa Sveden Sinclair '94 (niece of **Nancy Frame Sveden**) and Matt Daylor '06 were always available and helpful. We later learned that we met our participation goal of 59 percent, and our total class gift was $657,774. Our Reunion co-chairs, **Andy Montgomery** and **Eleanor Vinke Sweeney**, and our leading class agent, **Fred Swan**, were instrumental in making this a wonderful weekend for all.

Granthia Lavery Preston's daughter, Lynelle Preston Cameron '91, taught a one-month course at Midd this January on regenerative economics. Lynelle's daughter, Sierra Cameron, is in the Class of '25.5 at the College.

Dorrie Landry Kehoe moved to the Residence at Otter Creek in Middlebury in June 2024. She purchased a cottage there and is now near her son, Matt Bonner '91, and family, who live in the Middlebury area. She would love to hear from classmates: 978-968-8733.

Barbara Freeman Irving and husband Dave are very involved in helping refugees coming to this country, who are often from Southeast Asia. It's very rewarding volunteer work.

Anne Goebel Barkman, who lives in Canada, planned to come to Reunion but couldn't get there. She is hard of hearing, so has been learning American Sign Language. Also, she mentors people who are new to hearing aids.

Nancy Sveden, who attended Reunion, again hosted two young men in the summer who were baseball players with the Brewster White Caps. She always has the "sweetest young men in the world."

Eleanor Bliss, who attended Reunion, is very active at Wake Robin in Shelburne, Vt. She plays the hand bells, among other things.

I (**Anne**) had a wonderful trip to Guatemala with my sister, Helen Martin Whyte '67, and her husband, Ross, in March 2024.

Carolyn Parks Behr has happy memories of relationships rekindled at Reunion: "I know many classmates had to pass up Reunion because of health issues or distance, but it was satisfying to be with those who were back on our beautiful campus. It was also wonderful to learn what a vital and impressive place Middlebury has become, as it prepares its students for life in a complicated world." Back home after Reunion, Carolyn enjoyed the summer cultural scene in the Berkshires, such as music at Tanglewood and plays at local theaters. Fresh fruit and vegetables from local farms (and her own garden) were also enjoyed.

Martha Gerhart writes, "I've now been at CC Young in assisted living in Dallas for eight years (since retiring from teaching at Southern Methodist Univ.)—hard to believe! Though I need my handy rollator to get around, at my desk I happily work on translating singer-related texts—very satisfying."

Correspondent **Andy Montgomery** reports: **Ren Curry** says, "It was a long trip from Santa Cruz, Calif., to Reunion, but I made it even longer by spending four days in Tenants Harbor, Maine, home of the Wyeth painters and classmate **Dave Percival**. Lots of lobster and ice cream! Then on to a great Reunion."

Bob Ray enjoyed seeing classmates at Reunion, particularly the KDRs. He and wife Polly (Philbrick) '60 then had a full summer in Rhode Island with sons and their families visiting. He says, "Hard to beat the ocean in the summer!"

Paul Fitzgerald was sorry to miss Reunion. "I was in Mauritius BONEFISHING! Quite a trip of 28 hours each way on a 65-foot supply boat. Back in Montana on the Missouri River, I had lots of rising trout coming to dry flies. It doesn't get much better."

Bick Bicknell says the 65th was a resounding success. Keeping with a long history of inclusiveness, **Dorrie Kehoe** and Cheryl Kater (**Jim Kater**'s widow) were made honorary members of KDR and awarded plaques. **Dick Krasker** was awarded the KDR National Honorary Medal by Chapter VP **Bob Ray** for his many years of supporting the College and the Alpha Chapter. To see a photo of the KDRs at Reunion, check the next page.

Fred Swan enjoyed the fellowship and seeing so many classmates at Reunion. "Pat and I had a great reunion with **Frank East** and wife Karen at the Middlebury Inn on Sunday noon."

Dick Krasker enjoyed Reunion with many family members. He is already looking forward to our 70th, if "the frame permits it." Life goes on as usual with maintenance of an old home.

Joy and I (**Andy**) had a great time. Even dorm life was bearable! The highlight of the year was co-chairing another Reunion with record attendance (as the last three have had). Could not have done it without co-chair **Eleanor Sweeney**. The downside was growing another year older.

—Class Correspondents: Millicent Fairhurst (milfair@earthlink.net) 341 East 19th St, 1C, New York, NY 10003; Anne Martin Hartmann (anne.hartmann01@gmail.com), 3 Cummings Rd., Unit 1038, Hanover, NH 03755; Andy Montgomery (joyandym@aol.com), 8910 Hilloway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

1960

REUNION CLASS

Editor's note: I am very sorry to report that **Jean Seeler-Gifford** passed away on August 9 at Porter Medical Center's Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing. Jean served as the class correspondent for 1960 for over 30 years. The late **Vcevy Strekalovsky** loved to tell the story about how at the 30th Reunion, he took her for a canoe paddle on the Otter Creek and attempted to persuade her to take on the job of what was then called class secretary, allegedly threatening to make her swim back to shore if she said no! She took it on and took her responsibilities seriously, developing a system of staying in touch with classmates that she often shared at the Alumni Leadership Conference during the class correspondent workshop. She was adamant that correspondents should be the "warm and fuzzy" contact from the College and simply take an interest in what people were doing, not how much they could give. Her best tactic was to get on people's holiday card lists and she got plenty of news that way! Jean was also generous with her time volunteering for Reunions and generous with her resources in donations, and in 2010, the College honored her with the Alumni Plaque Award. She was a loyal alum and a loyal classmate, and she will be dearly missed.

Pat Boyle sent the sad news that his mother, **Luci Frontini Boyle**, died last year. He writes, "She passed away in March 2023 in Seattle, Wash., where she had lived since 1980. Born in Montpelier, Vt., she moved to Boston after attending Middlebury then returned to northern Vermont and Montreal in the '70s when my father, Tom, worked at McGill Univ. They bought an old schoolhouse and spent winter weekends cross-country skiing in nearby pastures, and summers growing a huge garden, raising chickens and rabbits, reading a pile of *Whole Earth Catalogs*, and swimming at Lake Carmi State Park in Franklin, Vt. My parents and I moved to Seattle in 1980, where we fell in love with the mountains and Puget Sound, hiking and skiing nearly every week for 40 years. Among many other things, my mother never forgot her Italian roots when cooking, always had book recommendations for friends, and loved to volunteer at PAWS, taking care of injured wildlife. She is survived by me, my wife, Tracy, and two college-age grandkids, Ryan and Elena." An obituary appears in the back of this issue.

Marion Seasholtz sent the sad news that her father, **Douglas Herman Philipsen**, died September 26, 2023. He graduated from Middlebury with a degree in economics and was a member of KDR, serving as president his senior year. After graduating he married Mary (Marvin) '62 and earned his MBA from Cornell University. A participant in ROTC, he also received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Army. He served in the Alaska Yukon command 538 Ordinance in Fairbanks. While in Alaska he received his private pilot license and his multi-engine rating. When off duty, Doug and Mary tried to see as much of Alaska as possible, given the great distances and size of the state. He loved flying and always hoped to get back to it. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1964 and started his business career at Ford Motor Company in Michigan then joined W.R Grace and Co. in Cambridge, Mass. He then had a long career in banking. He also served as director and treasurer of several regional YMCAs, including in Lynn,

CELEBRATIONS

1. At a meeting of Community Partners for Affordable Housing in Lake County, Ill., Eve Palenske Lee '65 (seated), the outgoing board chair, was honored for her 45 years of leadership in affordable housing. Fellow board member Kim Stone '88 (standing) joined in the celebration.

2. Eoin Lazaridis Power '11.5 and Jelena Đokić were married in November 2022 at city hall in Belgrade, Serbia, and hosted their reception on August 12, 2023, at Eoin's family's ancestral home in Papingo, Greece. Friends and family who celebrated with the couple (in front) include Alice Bennett '11, Nike Lazaridis Power '14, John Power '82, Henriette Lazaridis '82, Denizhan Duran '11, Kartik Raju '11, and Morgan Aye '11.

3. KDR members from the Class of 1959 made it back to campus for their 65th Reunion: Tony Garcia, Bruce Cameron, (second row) John Fay, Dick Krasker, Arnold Bieling, Bob Ray, and Bick Bicknell.

4. Pete '62 and Janie Bachelder Johnson '63 were happy to meet Raymond Chen '23, MANPTS '24, whose grandmother is a friend of theirs: Janie, Raymond, and Pete with their canes.

5. Margaret Commins '81 attended a weeklong yoga retreat at Ashiyana Resort in Goa, India, led by Susanna Harwood Rubin '89: Susanna and Margaret, standing in the Arabian Sea.

6. At the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, Vt., Starrett Berry '09 married Shannon Bunchman on June 11, 2023. Friends in attendance included Elizabeth Roughead Scheuermann '09, Dominique Thompson Hopkins '04, Ana Carolina Guerrero '09, Geoff Edwards '09, the newlyweds, and Shawn Rae Passalacqua '93. The photographer was Ellen Sargent '07.

Mass., where he received the exemplar of service for his contribution to the stability of the Lynn YMCA. Doug had a great sense of humor and enjoyed being the life of the party. He always had a quick quip and loved a good story. He enjoyed wearing unusual hats and making people laugh. Spending time with family was important to him. He especially enjoyed a boat ride on Lake Champlain. He loved the outdoors and spent weekends and vacations in Vermont at Lake Dunmore, his childhood home in Brandon, and in Johnson. He rediscovered his love of machinery learned on his grandfather's farm and enjoyed building roads and working to improve the land he enjoyed with his family. He and Mary had always planned to retire to Vermont and in 2020 they moved from Duxbury, Mass., to a home the family built together in Johnson.

I (**Nancy**) am looking for someone to join me as a class correspondent. Please let me know if you are interested!

—Class Correspondent: Nancy Mumford Mulvey (nandonmulv@gmail.com); 104 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810.

1961

It's easy to lose track of what season it is, with the College's changing publication schedule for Class Acts. It's hard to keep track of how long I've been doing this job. I started the day we graduated in 1961 and have continued ever since, minus several years after our 25th Reunion. I am ashamed to admit that in all this time, I have never taken the opportunity to thank our classmate, **Dario Quiros**, for his generosity in sending out our quarterly "ask" emails. So, BIG THANK YOU, Dario and Jen Nowitzke.

Lynn Keebler Miner included the frequently said, "I have nothing of note to report." You could put that at the top of each submission. I never believe that, but I am thankful for what tidbits people do send. Lynn still stays in touch with **Margot Woodward Fleck** and **Nancy Peck Moss**.

Nancy Moss reports, "Two nice things happened to me this past summer. Our second great-grandchild, Sophie Jo (for Jo in *Little Women*), was born in May, and Twilight Theatre here did a reading of my one-act play, *Getting By*, which is set in a retirement home."

As a lot of us say, it's so sad that classmates' deaths are such a big part of our news. **Dennis T'Ang** died on March 15, 2024. His widow, Carole, wrote a lovely note about him and his family. Their son is Paul, and their grandson is Jack. Dennis is also survived by a sister, Rosalind T'Ang Morf. Dennis was a natural musician and played trombone and bass, among other brass and string instruments. He created and played in a number of local groups. His funeral crowd was full of musicians.

Gerry Carrick's "nothing new" was to report he was expecting to be a great-grandfather in November.

Frederic Fischer says, "Eleanor (Williamson) '63 and I are still mobile, but in slow motion. We've cut back on long trips after a couple of decades visiting various parts of the planet. We hope to see more of the U.S. in the future. After several decades in Brooklyn, we moved to the Mystic, Conn., area. Our daughter and her family are still based in Brooklyn, and our son and his family are rooted in Anchorage, Alaska."

Dario Quiros wrote that he and Peggy were, thankfully, in good health and living busy lives. "I continue to work with my son, Kevin, to run the company I started many years ago, and it's doing very well. The rest of my kids and grandchildren are also doing well. We are very fortunate."

Deb Terrell Van Dyke had some news; something that was difficult for her but that she was trying to be positive about, knowing it was the right move. "My husband, Don, and I sold our house in Nantucket in early September and headed to a CCRC in Nashua, N.H. The good news is it's much closer to one of our sons and his family; there are better medical services; and we have a cottage with plenty of room (maybe too much as it was a temptation to bring everything with us). The bad news is we had to leave good friends and a place that made us really happy for so many years. I tried to put images in the memory bank when I was on the beach, saw a colorful sunset, or walked down Main Street, which is so pretty that it seems too good to be true."

Sandy Anderson Bolton says, "I spent another wonderful summer in Aspen for the eight-week music festival. There was amazing music performed daily by students, their professors, and world-famous guest artists. This has been going on for over 20 years." Sandy has volunteered at the kiosk where they sell hats, tees, and many musical items to raise money for student scholarships. She says, "Add hiking and dining and the great outdoors—need I say more!" Earlier in the summer, two granddaughters graduated from college: one from the Kelly School of Business at Indiana Univ. and the other from CU Boulder. Then Sandy and her daughter visited Belize, where they flew over the Blue Hole—pretty amazing—and snorkeled the reef and swam with the sharks.

Lee Kaufman still spends most of the year in Montana but over the past few winters has lived in Park City, Utah, as grandkids skied for the Park City Ski Team and Romark Ski Academy. Amazingly, grandkids grow up—now one is a senior at Cornell, one is attending Montana State College, Bozeman, and two are attending Burke Ski Academy, Burke, Vt. The youngest, a biathlon racer, is still in Park City, training at Soldier Hollow. Lee has slightly modified his skier habit since he now has been on skis every winter for 80 consecutive years—he only skis on good weather days when snow conditions are okay. He still gets in 70 to 100 days or so on the slats. Lee has been in contact with Bick Bicknell '59 and other KDRs, but, he says, due primarily to his negligence, he has not had recent contact with many Midd folks. "I did meet up with **Pete Hoyt** last summer and stay in email contact with Paul Fitzgerald '59, a serious fisherman who owns property in Montana near major fishing waters and fishes constantly. My wife and I have some email contact with **Nick Dabney**'s widow, Ginny, and **Harvey Gray**'s widow, Marge, but our paths haven't crossed for a while."

It would be hard to keep up with Lee who thinks "all in all retired life is great; sometimes it's hard work to keep up with all the alternatives for fun existing, but Mary, my wife for some 58 years, puts up with me and tries her damndest to keep me in line." Lee ends by hoping you all are well, and he expresses his best wishes to all classmates. I echo Lee's sentiments.

—Class Correspondent: Janet S. Reed (jsreed2800@me.com), 933 W. Foster Ave., #1145, Chicago, IL 60640.

1962

Cindy Cooper Bracken accompanied one of her sons and his wife to Spain in late February and sent in this report. Sounds like a great time was had by all. (Who wouldn't have fun, eating and drinking their way across Andalucia?) "I was happy that we had a car and could wander as we pleased. We took in the white city of Zahara and also explored Alcala as we made our way from somewhere to somewhere. The topography reminded me of a crazy quilt and was not at all like the orderly (and boring) fields we have here. What a lot of olive trees we saw, giving me a new appreciation of olives! We were too late for the harvest so had to scrap the idea of visiting a processing plant. The orange groves were loaded; the juice was grand, and the odor of the blossoms made me want to find a perfume like it. I didn't. The day we were to sail from Estepona was rainy, windy, and cold so we spent the time at Gibraltar. I've now ordered a book about the use of it during WWII as we were highly impressed with what men had done with a rock. St. Michael's Cave was having its light show, which added a lot to the experience. We had a very good driver who took us to the top, stopping at all the sights one must see. What a kick we got out of the macaques! We enjoyed lots of wine and tapas and some nights drank and ate in our rooms, making our own charcuterie boards. We climbed millions of stairs in the various alcazars and walked miles up and down charming alleys."

Deborah Abbott sent the sad news that her mother, **Jan Timmerman Abbott**, died on April 13, 2024. She says, "She began at Middlebury with the Class of 1962, took a year off, and finished with the Class of 1963. She majored in French and later completed an MA in French in the summer language school in 1968. She also attended the German School in 1990. She loved her time at Middlebury; it was a second home. She

ILLUSTRATION BY CONNIE NOBLE

Keeping Her Stick on the Ice

An alumna's passion for ice hockey puts her in the record books

Skating had never been a part of recreational activities for Linda Gross Sinrod '62, but in college her roommate was an expert figure skater, which inspired Sinrod to try it out. She found she liked it and even skated in the ice show during Winter Carnival her sophomore year. But after graduating, her life became busy, and she didn't put on a pair of skates for over 10 years.

Then one day she was cleaning out some things and came across those skates. Knowing there was a frozen pond nearby, she headed over to see if she still had her skating skills. Apparently she did, because another woman on the ice asked her if she wanted to try playing ice hockey. Sinrod thought it sounded fun, and she enjoyed it so much that she became a founding member of the first women's ice hockey team in the Washington, D.C., area. Even though the other players were much younger, she didn't let that stop her from giving it her best shot. In fact, over the next 10 years, her best shots included 23,250 pucks on goal. "I used to practice puck handling in my basement and would shoot pucks against a wall 15 feet away where I had outlined a goal," she says.

In her 40s, she figured she was getting too old to compete and left the team, becoming busy with a job as a programmer at IBM and family activities. Once she retired, however, she began to think about her hockey days and, out of curiosity, looked up some old teammates. She found one who was coaching the Prince William Wildcats, a senior women's team in the Mid-Atlantic League, and she decided to join them—at age 67. She played until she was 75 and, over the course of that time, shot another 21,923 pucks on goal.

But age takes its toll, and as she slowed down, she became less competitive, and the team asked her to leave. Sinrod wasn't willing to give up her passion, however—she found a women's league where teams were picked twice a year and played against each other. She was still one of the oldest players, and that piqued her curiosity. How many other female hockey players were out there near her age of 80? She checked the Guinness World Records to find out who the oldest one might be.

At that time, the oldest player was 72. Sinrod certainly had that beat, so she decided to apply to Guinness to set her own record. She got it. She was officially the oldest woman ice hockey player at age 80 years, 305 days.

Sinrod is still playing, at age 84. She figures it's time to update Guinness, so she is applying for the record again. As she skates on, she's pretty sure she can hold onto it.

made many lasting friends there with classmates and professors and staff, like Stephen Freeman, Pardon Tillinghast, Bill Davis in theater, set design, and construction, Chaplain Scott, and many more, whose names I have forgotten, but about whom she spoke with great affection. Due to the presence of several Janets in her class (even though my mother's name was simply Jan, long story why), Middlebury classmates christened my mother 'Timmi' from her last name. It was always a delight to hear one of her friends call her this; it was almost another identity. I actually wondered if they knew her real name. My mother enjoyed working on Reunions and getting to know better classmates she had not known well during her college years. The Middlebury calendar was a fixture on the kitchen wall, scribbled all over with the appointments and events of her active social life for decades. So great was her enthusiasm for and loyalty to Middlebury that I almost regret my decision to attend Haverford rather than Middlebury. It is truly hard for me to write to tell you that she is no more." The class sends its condolences to the whole Abbott family.

—Class Correspondents: Judy Bosworth Roësset (jbozroesset@aol.com), 8809 Mariscal Canyon Dr., Austin, TX 78759; Liza Dunphy Fischer (betsy@brentopalmer.com), 611 Oakland Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240.

1963

Correspondent **Janie Bachelder Johnson** reports: Dear classmates, this is what I have for notes after promising to respondents a copy of the Dog Team sticky bun recipe, which originated from **Ron Prichard** and was forwarded on by **Larry Ring**. Do not bother asking me for it unless you send in a message for the class notes. It's only fair.

Bill Temple writes in that he "stays in touch with **Craig Stewart**, **Arnie Levinson**, and **Rick Apfel** regarding the crazy news of the day and international soccer action. I also follow **Larry Ring** and family on Facebook. Cheers."

News came from **Charlie Seilheimer**: "Mary Lou and I are still enjoying life at Mount Sharon Farm in the beautiful and historic countryside of Virginia. Without soliciting them, Mount Sharon continues to attract groups from around the world with an interest in American gardens and architecture, as well as 18th-century American furniture and 19th-century American paintings. Our oldest grandchild, Julian Prentice, graduated from Taft with honors and entered Dartmouth in September. His sister Louise is a junior at Taft School. My grandson Henry is in his second year at Groton and his sister, Parthie, is in the ninth grade at St. Anne's Belfield School. The Dog Team sticky bun recipe offer was most attractive, not only to me, but also to our son and daughter, who lived in and owned the 'Dog Team Farm' across the road from the inn while they were students at Middlebury. My best wishes to you and all our classmates!"

Charlie Buell says, "The sticky bun recipe was the motivator! Reaching the mid-80s means changes in forms of exercise (playing old man's squash, for example), but my health remains reasonably good. I've been keeping the mind busy by giving social history courses to our contemporaries at Osher@Dartmouth. I'm doing a fall course on the Civil Rights Movement, especially in the 1960s—our time! I was a minor foot soldier in it, working on a voter registration drive in Virginia in 1965. The 1960s were quite a time."

Meg Holmes Robbins sent an update in the summer, when she was in the midst of an annual family gathering that has taken place for five generations on an Island in the middle of Sharbot Lake, Ontario. "The wonder of this tradition is that while we can clearly see how we have changed over the years, this particular spot hasn't changed at all—and as a result we all feel 12 years old again when here. The magic probably has something to do with the loon's call, or maybe the indignance of the beaver, the cuteness of the otter, or endless stands of tall pine along the water's rocky edge, where heron, owls, and osprey scout anything daring to dart into the starlight. Of course there is no noise control for grandchildren during the day, but the quiet of sunset (literally and figuratively) gives us time to appreciate how our family has grown and to acknowledge the swing of time's arc. On that note, while I still wonder how we have gotten this old while we still feel so young, I'm glad we did/do and look forward to hearing from others!! Love to all—I treasure my Middlebury friends and memories—and please stay well."

And saving the best for last, because this made your class correspondent happy, this came from Wallace (who?) or, rather, **Pete Pringle**: "Ellie Williams Pringle '62 died two years ago from Parkinson's. I have re-established a relationship with my high school sweetheart. We both raised families and have seven children and 13 grandchildren between us. Our last year travels included Paris, Portugal (just in case), San Francisco twice, Santa Fe, Connecticut, Florida, and Salt Lake City often. I work out several times a week and take long walks hoping to prolong this good life. Stay well and do not fall."

Pete Johnson '62 and I (**Janie**) are doing just fine. I am actually living, like some of our peers, the life of a princess here in "Downton Abbey, Vt.," otherwise known as Equinox Village in Manchester. The chef is terrific, and we each have a personal trainer. So, we eat and then work if off! Pete is still attempting golf. I already mastered it, so I am out. He is becoming quite the banjo player and plays with a local group. I am in three book clubs, so that's a challenge, but the books are great, and Pete and I both enjoy them. *The Covenant of Water* and *James* were the top of my best-ever books this year. We have also enjoyed getting to know Raymond Chen '23, a remarkable young alum whose grandmother is a friend of ours and who recently got his master's at the Middlebury Institute. We took a photo with him, all of us with our Gamaliel Painter canes—we will have the same Reunion year, with a 60-year difference! (You can see the photo on page 61.)

If you are reading this and were in our class, please do send in information. At this point, I will be stepping down as class correspondent, as is **Bruce Bailey**, but we're leaving your class notes in the capable hands of **Chris** and **Larry**, and you can contact them with your news. They'd love to hear from you!

—Class Correspondents: Janie Bachelder Johnson (petesgirl1222@gmail.com), PO Box 124, Danby, VT 05739; Larry Ring (lwrsbr@msn.com), 5952 N. Via del Chiquiri, Tucson, AZ 85718-1380; Christopher J. White (crnbrycst@gmail.com), 347 Duck Cove Rd., Bucksport, ME 04416.

1964

Well, folks, we made it through another Reunion, our 60th. There were 34 alumni plus 13 spouses and significant others who attended or registered. As an aspirational goal for us, there were representatives from 1949, and even a 1947 spouse, at their 75th Reunion. The message? Keep hope alive! We can do it, too. Our class was based in Hepburn, where many of us spent our freshman year. Midd staff put together a terrific program that included a fascinating discussion regarding JFK's last speech, a presidential conversation with Laurie Patton, veterans' and memorial events, bus tours, a women's conversation, and, of course, the parade and Convocation. At the Convocation, our class was duly recognized. Attendees were told that 103 donors raised an amazing $1.8 million. As a result, we were awarded the Gordon Perine '49 Award for the Reunion class, other than the 25th or 50th, with the greatest increase in dollars raised, and the Patricia Judah Palmer '57 Award, for the 50th or post-50th Reunion class that raised the largest total of life income gifts and documented bequest intentions.

The presentation regarding JFK's last speech centered around the documentary about the speech JFK gave at Amherst College in 1963, commemorating the passing of Robert Frost, who taught at Amherst, but was a fixture and inspiration at Middlebury. If you get a chance, you should watch it. The messages are still relevant today. In the various talks that President Patton gave, she outlined the many accomplishments achieved during her tenure. The feature in this issue about her goes into them in detail. Importantly, in her talks, President Patton strongly emphasized her admiration for the soul and commitment of Middlebury—its faculty, staff, and particularly its alumni.

Thad and **Patience Kenney Jackson** organized our memorial service. The 26 classmates who have passed since our last Reunion were each noted with a floral ceremony assisted by **Martha Beuret Vaney**, as well as several songs and poems. The Veterans' and Service Program praised Laurie Patton's longtime commitment to service, whether it be through the military, international volunteer service, or volunteer service at home. A member of the Class of 1959 gave an inspirational talk about serving in Vietnam, which so many of our classmates did. He noted that many people in the military with college degrees were assigned to noncombat positions. He went on to say that our own **Mike Heaney** was an exception, serving as a platoon leader, being ambushed in combat, and losing several of his men. Mike has been a tireless advocate for veterans ever since. We are all very proud of him and of all who served and continue to serve.

Ten classmates attended the women's conversation (sadly, I, **Bob**, failed to meet an important criterion for attendance—you can guess what that is). As has been reported, they had a nice visit just sort of updating their lives and sharing stories. Once again, this Reunion was another opportunity to reconnect with classmates, share fun stories about our time on campus, and see the amazing changes that have taken place at Middlebury. It was a *great* time.

In other news, in a tribute from his colleagues, we received an article praising **Floyd Moreland** for his important work in the field of teaching ancient languages. The article noted that 2023 marked the 50th year of the Latin/Greek Institute at City University of New York, which was the brainchild of Floyd. Floyd's philosophy and approach to the intensive teaching of language, which emphasizes creation and generation of academic momentum, has been described as visionary. His peers describe Floyd as a genuine legend. Floyd was honored several times in 2023 for his admired work: at an exhibition at Brooklyn College; as the focus of a yearlong celebration of the institute's history on social media; and by the institute's community at the college's graduation. I (**Bob**) spoke with Floyd and though retired, he sounded very upbeat and involved, particularly in the refurbishment of the carousel at the beach in Seaside Heights, N.J., for which he has also been honored. Mainly though, he has had an amazing academic life. While a doctoral student at Berkeley, he was asked to develop a program to teach ancient languages in a shorter, accelerated timeframe. It proved successful and led to the creation of the Latin and Greek Workshop there. Floyd was then recruited by CUNY to replicate it. At CUNY, in addition to being the institute's director, Floyd served as a professor of classics; became dean of graduate students; and, ultimately, was VP of student affairs. It's no wonder his colleagues and others decided to recognize and honor him. I join them.

Alice Taliak Imbur did not make it to Reunion but sent a picture of herself in a Midd T-shirt with her cane, marching with us in spirit. She writes, "**Barb Bailey Hollister** has written to me about the nice things that you all experienced at the recent Reunion. So glad that it went well for everyone."

We are sorry to report that **Tim Hayward** passed away on March 17, 2024. **Tom Koch** attended his memorial service and said it was well done. "Former governor Jim Douglas '72, for whom Tim served as chief of staff, was there with his usual serious but humorously delivered remarks. And in recognition of Tim's love for Mount Hunger, which lies right behind Tim's house in Middlesex, Vt., and which he hiked to the top of hundreds of times, Governor Phil Scott read a letter to Tim's wife, Susan, announcing that the main trail up Mount Hunger will now be named the Hayward Trail. There were many other speakers and music, as well as refreshments honoring our classmate—a Marine, business leader, family man, community and state worker, and old-fashioned conservationist." We remember that both Tom and Tim served in the Vermont legislature for a time, and Tim had quite a long career working for causes and candidates throughout his life.

—Class Correspondents: Bob Baskin (robertbaskin@msn.com), 89 Joshua Trail, Madison, CT 06443; Dori Ells Jurgenson (dorothea.jurgenson@gmail.com), 106 Orchard Circle, Denver, IA 50622.

1965

REUNION CLASS

A quick reminder that our 60th will be held the weekend of June 6–8. **Norm** and **Bonnie Trompeter Lowe** are planning a low-key program, the details of which will be announced soon.

The Alumni College continues to draw classmates from all over the U.S. **Lindsay Webbe** and **Tim Griggs** came this year from Colorado. Tim reflected on his takeaway: "From my point of view, Alumni College represents one of the best annual events put on by Middlebury. Between Bread Loaf

campus, great courses, and a mini-reunion with friends, it can't be beat! It's a great way to get my Vermont and Middlebury fix!" One of its frequent attendees has been Candy Thayer, **Jerry Thayer**'s widow, whom we lost in August.

Charles "Benny" Bennett and **Jim Murdock** did their "ritual" bike ride on the Lake Champlain causeway trail in a blistering south wind. They also went to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, which they had never visited. As a follow-up, Jim sent me (**"T"**) a copy of *Valcour* by Jack Kelly, a detailed history of the naval battle on the lake in 1776. "We highly recommend it to anyone interested in the role of Lake Champlain in our history. We are hoping to get together for some gentle skiing in Colorado this winter and looking forward to the 60th!"

Check out a photo of a classmate being honored for service on page 61.

—Class Correspondents: R.W. "T" Tall Jr. (ahmic29@gmail.com), 204 Clark Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Polly Moore Walters (polly@frii.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

1966

We're grateful to all the classmates who sent updates last year. Unfortunately, the printed version of these updates was delayed due to a publishing pause on the College's end. Our apologies!

First, we were sad to learn that **Kerry Lee Campbell** died on March 10, 2023. Her sister informed us, but there has not been an official obituary. You can read a short obit in the back of this issue. We'd be glad to pass along your memories of Kerry.

Last year, Jane and **Chip Elfner** were trying to stay active in their winter home, Mountain Lake, in Central Florida. They told us, "We play croquet three days a week. Jane is big on bridge and mah-jongg. I prefer golf and tennis. No pickle ball." Chip had just won the Miller Flight of their club championship. He said he had his best round of the winter! "I think of all the golf I played in the spring of our senior year with **Chap Garrison**, **Gerry Michaud**, **Ken Andersen**, and **David Rothschild**. David is deceased, but all would be happy for me just being able to compete. Chap, Gerry, and I did have a great round together last summer at the U.S. Open venue in Brookline, Mass." Chip sends greetings and good health to all the members of the Class of '66!

Lee Hall Delfausse had an exciting year in 2023 with the launch of her second novel, *No Sanctuary Here*. We hear that she is currently working on the third novel in her trilogy! Lee has received many outstanding reviews, especially from those who are fascinated with the Vietnam era and the protest movement. The novel follows Lee's protagonist, Lia Erickson, through a summer of self-doubt as she recovers from an injury in a World Cup ski race. Lee writes, "Every elite athlete understands the importance of positive mentoring during moments of struggle. Lia finds support while hiking in the Green Mountains, the Wind River Range, and the Sierra Nevada. Along the way, she meets anti-war protestors who encourage her to use her fame to speak against the war. She finds her voice in many ways."

In 2014, **Val Somers Demong** retired after many rewarding years in the Admissions Office at the College. Geoff passed away in 2016, and she stayed in the house they built together in Cornwall until three years ago. Val has moved to the Marble Works condos in Middlebury, "with views of the Otter Creek, the bird migrations, the College skyline, and magnificent sunsets." **Charlotte Stetson** lives there too for a good part of the year. She and Val were roommates junior year. Val says, "It's just like being back in Battell Center, only a little cushier!" There are many Midd grads nearby whom Val sees often, including **Ann Parker Demong** (her sister-in-law), **Judy Enright Dunning** and husband Dwight '67, and Kathy Mason Ambrette '68 and Linda Mason '68. During Alumni College she often catches up with **Bill Ames**, **Chip Elfner**, Tim Griggs '65, and Lindsay Webbe '65 at Mr. Up's, which is always a grand time. "Truly, life is good and I'm especially grateful for my roots here in Middlebury."

Dow Davis reflected last April, "Life seems to have traumatic moments, and we are now experiencing one of those moments, which is something many of us have experienced either with our parents and/or by ourselves. It is called downsizing! Recently Sue and I decided, while we were healthy, we should consider a move to a retirement community. As a result, this past October we applied to Stone Ridge, a CCRC community in Mystic, Conn. Our application was submitted with an expected two-year waiting list. To our surprise, very quickly we were notified that a unit we were interested in was available! Shipments to children in Minnesota, Georgia, Florida, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts (2) ensued! I cannot emphasize how fortunate we are to have seven children between us, as well as the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, three local thrift shops, and 1-800-Got-Junk! My message to all my classmates: If you live in a yurt, you are in good shape; otherwise, take a deep breath and be prepared."

Bill Eldridge and his wife, Sue, love their small South Carolina home on Murrells Inlet. They have been there, full time, for 11 years. Bill shared tidbits of information about people we may know. "Last month Sue had a mini-reunion with some of her classmates from Green Mountain. The husband of one lived in the Buffalo area a while ago and played in a hockey league with our own talented and hilarious **John Valby**. Also, our classmates **Dave** and **Suzanne Snyder Terry** live in Sue's childhood home in Cohasset, Mass., and have lived there since 1974." The Eldridges enjoy volunteering and are very active in their local church. COVID put a halt to their travel plans, but they were hoping last March to resume at least some trips. "One last bit of news. We had the February 2023 Chinese spy satellite pass directly over our house, and then watched when it blew up as soon as it was over water."

Martha Estle Eaton wrote in April 2023, "Since our 50th Reunion in 2016, our lives haven't seen much change. We have downsized from our 110-year-old farmhouse to a condo, still on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, and continue to be active in community affairs. COVID isolation provided the opportunity to increase my quilt production, and I've sold or donated several pieces. We've just returned from two-and-a-half weeks in Florence and Lucca, Tuscany—our first trip abroad since visiting Paris with a small group of friends in 2019. Our grandsons are now 24 and 12 and bring us joy, despite only occasional visits. We are grateful for reasonably good health and look forward to visits from friends each summer."

After a 2023 bout with COVID, **Betty Brennen Danley** wrote about the challenges we all face these days and the value of long friendships: "I remain in close email contact with Middlebury friends, and I grow to appreciate more and more those lifelong friendships that Middlebury gave me. We are all affected and dismayed with the straits of the world. I guess every generation goes through this when members slow down as movers and shakers. But, my goodness, I feel most news is pretty dire. At the same time, I see us on the verge of fixing some terrible mistakes we have made. We Midd friends laugh and cry about our own daily lives. Something that makes us laugh most often comes from our memories of being 18 on the Middlebury campus."

Jean Gear Lamont has fully retired from Educators Collaborative, the firm she was a partner with for 15 years, assisting independent schools with executive searches, board governance, and mentoring. She has remained very active assisting the library on the island of North Haven, Maine, with a capital campaign and fundraising for the Horizons @ Foote program at the school where she was a head. Jean and her husband, Nick, enjoy their nine grandchildren, ranging in age from 7 to 22, and have resumed international travel, post-COVID (most recently a hiking trip to Greece).

—Class Correspondents: Prue Frey Heikkinen (prueannarbor@gmail.com), 1914 Wayne St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; Francine Clark Page (fpage2@myfairpoint.net), 19 Brigham Hill Ln., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

1967

Susie Davis Patterson reports the sad news of the death of a favorite classmate, **Alex Taylor**, on February 8, 2024. Alex lived with slow-progressing Parkinson's for over 20 years. When first diagnosed, Alex said to Susie, "I think I can handle physical decline, but I'm terrified of cognitive decline." Alex proved himself sharp until the end, corresponding with several close college friends, which meant so much to him. Alex was very active over the years with our class, working on many Reunions and for a long stretch as one of our class correspondents. Alex had the style of a "man about town" right out of the pages of *The New Yorker*. He was faithful to Brooks Brothers attire and wrote with flourish and meticulous detail as a longtime journalist, primarily for *Time* and *Fortune* magazines, covering the auto industry. One of the many perks of his job was to have a particular car provided to him for some months at a time so he could report on it from personal driving experience. This meant he often showed up at Reunions with a very sporty number and relished giving classmates exhilarating rides over the Middlebury Gap and Brandon Gap routes. Susie's probably not alone in thoroughly enjoying lunches out with Alex when in New York City—a country mouse being wined and dined on an expense account. Always, Alex wanted to know all the news—and gossip—among his college friends, which for him was a journalist's treasure trove of stories.

A Susie/Alex highlight was meeting up in Berlin the summer of 1965 while both of them were youth hosteling around Europe, Alex by Eurail pass and Susie by VW Beetle with her sister. In those days, college kids checked for mail at the American Express counter in every major city, and there was often a large book available to leave messages. Alex and Susie had "made a date" to meet at the counter in Berlin, halfway through the summer—what were the chances? Susie walked in behind her sister, who exclaimed in awe, "Susie, you have a message from someone named Alex!" Within minutes, there he was, having been checking several times a day while he was in town. A very special connection and exciting time together, pushing the curfew limits of their youth hostel for the next few days.

More classmate automotive news: **Jim Adams** and his 1980 MGB MK IV beauty of a car were the feature story in the December 2023 issue of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts (VAE) publication. There, in glossy colored pictures and in an article reported by Jim, was the love story of Jim's relationship with the cars of his youth. From the beginning, British sports cars were extra attractive to Jim, and he succumbed to the allure of his reddish-orange MGB in a Burlington dealer's showroom in 1983. Jim reported that his baby had almost "effortlessly" reached 100,000 miles, but his article detailed years of careful maintenance and replacement parts resulting in what he called a "perfect but not correct" model. The article also related several exciting crisis events happening at the top of Smuggler's Notch. A great read and Susie thanks **Karen Unsworth** for sending her the actual pages from VAE's publication for this report. Both the MGB and Jim look grand! Don't miss our class Reunions when Jim and wife Barb arrive in glory with MGB top down.

—Class Correspondents: Peter Kovner (pkovner@gmail.com), 12 Independence Ave., Lexington, MA 02421; Karl Lindholm (lindholm@middlebury.edu), 825 Cider Mill Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Susan Davis Patterson (spatters@uvm.edu), 770 Indian Trail, Lake Dunmore, Leicester, VT 05733.

1968

A current recipient of our Class of '68 Scholarship Fund is majoring in computer science with a minor in math. Happily, he has been hands-on with computers since the age of five and therefore should be well on his way toward a goal of working in software development, thus making his way out of a 9-to-5 regular routine in the future. We encourage all to support this worthy fund.

Chris D'Elia reports that he and his wife, Jenny, both big fans of opera and classical music, recently attending a gala at the Royal Opera House (ROH) in London in the presence of the king. The occasion was the celebration for Sir Antonio Pappano, a distant cousin, moving from the ROH to lead the London Symphony Orchestra. Chris and Jean will follow that up with a trip to Naples to Il Teatro de San Carlo to attend a performance of *La Traviata*.

Daniel Eiben sent the sad news that he learned **Asheleigh Moorhouse** died on Sept. 2, 2022. He writes, "Asheleigh went by **Ed Moorhouse** in our day and was one of my closest friends. He was a drama major and directed *Lion in Winter*, in which I played Henry. He also was brilliant as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He was an extra in *The Paper Chase* (available for streaming) and sits just behind and to the right of Timothy Bottoms in Professor Kingsfield's class. With dual citizenship he moved to Toronto right after graduation. I had been in touch with Ash in the late '90s, but when I changed email addresses, we lost contact. I'd been googling him from time to time and at one point I did come up with an obituary that referred to the deceased as the widow of Asheleigh Moorhouse, but that was clearly referring to his father.

CLASS ACTS

I did communicate that erroneous information to **Bentley Gregg** when he was trying to locate missing classmates in advance of our 50th Reunion. This past March his profile somehow popped up on my LinkedIn feed with the city he lived in. I immediately googled his name and city and sadly came up with a two-year-old obit."

We were sorry to hear of some other classmates who have died since our 55th Reunion. **Arthur "Ben" Eklof** died October 24, 2023, **Russell Fellows** on November 9, 2023, **David Ruberg** on November 14, 2023, and **Walter Becker** on March 7, 2024.

The magazine will now be coming out three times per year. As you read this issue, we encourage you to go ahead and send us any information you would like to share NOW for the next issue! No time like the present, while the inclination is fresh in your minds. Thank you!

—Class Correspondents: Gail Hyde (glhsrs@rit.edu), 23 Cricket Hill Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534; Tobi Gray Watson (watson.tobi@gmail.com), 369 Montezuma Ave., #362, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

1969

Correspondent **Peter Reynolds** reports: As our 30th Reunion wound down, **Mary MacArthur Wendell** cornered **Anne Harris Onion** and me, individually gaining our agreement to be class secretaries (now correspondents) for "a short time." Twenty-five years later, Anne has come to terms with how she wants to spend her time doing quality work (other than her class notes work!). Her camera must be a constant companion as she shares her appreciation of nature's gifts from her daily walks, walks happening not only in her historic "Peyton Place," but from visits to her widespread offspring, Maine coast to Homer, Alaska. (Find her on "the FaceBook.") Her commitment to Midd started with her being a part of at least three generations of family alums, and includes service on the alumni board, as well as 25 years as class secretary. In keeping with the times, Anne also thought it time to hand the torch to the young. Unfortunately, with November birthdays, we're both already among the youngest in the class. Welcome to her replacement, **Roger Cummings**, known for keeping a Midd banner in his car (and plane) for spontaneous classmate pix. He has agreed to step in and has hit our notes page running. Pace yourself, Roger. You've got 25 years. Thanks, Anne, for sharing this space for two-and-a-half decades. It's been a good run.

Correspondent **Roger Cummings** reports: Our 55th Reunion was a remarkable success. Here are some numbers: there were 87 alumni and guests registered for the event; 151 '69ers donated for 63 percent participation, resulting in gifts totaling $3,453,168—this was the highest participation rate of any class; and we added four members to the Cane Society, bringing the total class members to 35. These results were due to the leadership of our Reunion co-chairs, **Mary Wendell** and **David Dodge**, plus the Reunion committee: **Linda Colwell Bouffard**, **Jackie Ogden English**, **Sandy Sapp Dooley**, **Ginny Hopper Hoverman**, **James LaChance**, **Shirley Markland**, **Pat Whitney Messler**, **Anne Onion**, **Barbara Brennan Dooley**, **David Breen**, **Jeffrey Brown**, **Connie Coffin Carter**, **Dick Crumb**, **Candace Syverson Cummings** and me (**Roger**), **Stephen Gray**, **Rick "Clubbo" Minton**, **Beverly Thierwechter**, **Julie von Wettberg**, and **Dijit Tripp Taylor**. In addition, thanks to the staff members guiding us—Lyn DeGraff, Alyssa Sinclair, and Tiffany Stowe.

A number of classmates came in early or live nearby the College. About 20 of us got together at Fire & Ice on Thursday evening. Including **Dale Goddard** ensured that the evening went without a hitch. Although **Dave Bahnson** had other obligations for the weekend, he was able to join us for dinner. The 50th and 55th Reunion classes President's Circle members (17 in the Class of '69) were invited to President Patton's house for Friday morning breakfast. One bit of good news is that the spend rate of the endowment has been limited to 5 percent. President Patton spoke about her new position and her love of Middlebury. She plans to continue to live in the area.

Class registration on Friday morning was at Hepburn, which certainly brought back memories. The Cane Society Lunch was well attended. Usually, the 50th Reunion class leads the singing of "Gamaliel Painter's Cane," but they had other conflicting plans, so the 55th led the singing and rapping. I'm not sure that we'll be invited back again. Friday afternoon brought our first class-specific activity, a "Conversation" led by **Ginny Hoverman** and **Linda Bouffard**. The idea was to bring out our stories about special places: locations where we have lived or visited. **Candy Cummings** was the only one who really did the task. The program that started with a prop (maps) and a task about places quickly evolved into the real conversation about "who I am" and the factors that played into that growth. Ginny and Linda showed a masterful understanding of the 20 classmates attending and each participant's willingness to share their personal evolution. Our class dinner that evening was at American Flatbread. We even got a glimpse of **Bob Thompson** who had other weekend obligations but drove up with **Julia Lord Soule**.

On Saturday morning, **Alan Cort** and I (**Roger**) attended the veterans' breakfast. The breakfast now includes graduates who served in other government roles, such as with the Peace Corps and Foreign Service. All of our participating class graduates were listed on the program. One could not help but contemplate how the sense of service has evolved at Middlebury since 1969. The approximately 70 Class of 1969 graduates who served (primarily men as officers in the Army on active or reserve duty) exceeded the total number of Midd graduates who served in all of the 10 younger classes celebrating their Reunions in 2024. Class-specific events continued on Saturday morning. **Sandy Dooley**, **Linda Bouffard**, and **David Breen** spoke about certain professional, personal, and family challenges. In each of their situations, the solution involved a "Leap of Faith." Next event was our remembrance celebration, organized by **Jeffrey Brown**, **Shirley Markland**, and **Peter Reynolds** for classmates who had passed away over the past five years. We remembered **Leif Magnusson**, **James Spencer**, **Andrew Streit**, **Harriet Arnone**, **Jim Hoverman**, **Howard Richmond**, **Elizabeth Campbell Chromec**, **John McConnell**, **Jack Milne**, **Pam Pritchard Orchard**, **Bill Morton**, **Rick Nelson**, **Dick Verge**, **Elizabeth Paullin Horvath**, **Jill Woodman Sisson**, and **Steve Washburn**.

At Convocation, **Mary Wendell** and **David Dodge** gave the class remarks. Fall 1965: In loco parentis and the gender double standard: women—10:00 p.m. curfews on weeknights, and skirts worn to classes and Proctor; men—no rules! November's East Coast blackout threw Middlebury into darkness. Full moon led us to candlelight dinner at Proctor, dancing with the Outlaws at McCullough Gym, curfew extended to 11:00, when DAMN! Lights back on at 7:45.

On campus: Frat parties, runs to New York, Winter Carnivals, fraternity fires, birth control, drugs, new buildings: Sunderland, Johnson, science building, new dorms. Beyond campus: Vietnam, civil rights, MLK, RFK, SDS, Black Panthers, space flights, British Invasion. Winter 1969: First "J-term!"—welcome change. Many left campus for their single course. Rumor was several classmates "studied" Switzerland's government system while skiing its slopes! Spring 1969: no dress code, no curfew, sororities disbanding, cars for all, Vietnam/draft awaited the men; a man's world of limited job choices awaited the women. BUT...the times they were a-changin'!

We also learned that **David** and Magna Leffler '68 **Dodge** had been awarded the Alumni Plaque Award for exceptional service to the College. The citation noted that among other activities for Middlebury, they both served as co-chairs of their 50th and 55th Reunion committees, resulting in record-breaking gifts to the College. Both have been active in town-gown activities and are loyal True Blue, 1800 Society, and Cane Society members. Our final class-specific event was a brunch at the Dodge's spectacular house. The weekend rains had made the road muddy, so everyone donned blue (not quite Midd blue) oversocks or removed shoes inside. Food was, of course, delicious. And for those of you who like to plan for the future, David's recent email to me stated, "Magna and I are looking forward to hosting Sunday brunch for our 75th Reunion, June 12, 2044."

—Class Correspondents: Roger Cummings (rwcodl@gmail.com), 5401 Eastern Shore Dr., Greensboro, NC 27455; Peter Reynolds (preyn@icloud.com), 137 Lakewood Parkway, Burlington, VT 05408.

1970

REUNION CLASS

Barry Sullivan reports, "I've just finished my 15th year teaching at Loyola Univ. After 15 years as the Cooney & Conway Chair in Advocacy, I have been named the Raymond and Mary Simon Chair in Constitutional Law. I was also a visiting professor at the University of Bologna for part of the fall semester."

For the past two-and-a-half years, as executive director of the Wayzata Conservancy, **Peter Hitch** has been assisting the city of Wayzata, Minn., in its development of the Panoway Project on the waterfront on the north side of Wayzata Bay of Lake Minnetonka. Find a description of the project at Wayzata Conservancy | Panoway of Wayzata,

Hal and **Brooke Hannay Beecher** went on a cruise around Baja California in February and March and saw numerous whales (grey, humpback, blue), as well as dolphins and blue-footed boobies and other birds, and snorkeled with colorful fish (Hal used to know them all but has forgotten). Hal finished publishing trout habitat model research. Last summer they watched polar bears, caribou, and beluga whales at Churchill in northern Manitoba, Canada.

Caroline Moore Garber says, "I was thrilled to become a first-time grandmother in August. And, I have the remarkable good fortune to have my daughter, Lindsay, her husband, Andrew, and Noah Alexander Fisher live just 20 minutes away from me in Madison, Wis. Couldn't be happier!"

Sue Ellen Thompson and **Stuart Parnes** are back on their pre-COVID travel schedule of seven trips a year. "That sounds like a lot, but five of them are to our cottage in Hancock, Vt., and the other two are out of the country. We spent two weeks in the mountains of Mallorca last spring, and we're planning to return to the Netherlands in October. We spent our honeymoon in Amsterdam 45 years ago and have only been back once since then, but we hope it hasn't changed that much. In between trips, Stuart stays busy designing exhibits for our local history museum in Oxford, Md., and I continue to teach poetry workshops on Zoom and to mentor adult poets putting together their first book manuscripts. We will be there at the 55th Reunion in June!"

Chris Bigelow reports that he has enjoyed a long and varied journey after Middlebury: a foray into the hippie life in San Francisco, followed by a move back east for a brief career as a dancer in New York, where he met his wife, Livia, also a dancer. They moved into a loft to have access to rehearsal space, then, becoming more interested in shaping loft space than dancing in it, he completed an architecture degree at Berkeley. Now retired from architecture, Chris still dances and creates sculptures from found objects.

Sue Porter Beffel took a New England road trip—a day in the Arnold Arboretum in Boston and a day in Burlington, Vt., with her brother, Tom Porter '79, sailing on Lake Champlain; then a drive through Middlebury to Wallingford to celebrate a lifelong friend's 75th, and a nice stop on the way down through the Hudson Valley to visit Eleanor Roosevelt's place in Hyde Park. "That woman always impresses me."

Jim Watson reports, "I finally retired in March of this past year after 27 years as a mortgage loan officer—I struggled a long time with the question, 'Who will take care of my clients as well as I do?' But it was time, and I found an acceptable substitute." Jim values the experiences that made him continue to learn, grow, and develop as a person, and recommends saying, "Something WONDERFUL is going to happen to me today!" to yourself in the mirror each morning.

Carol Harden joined **Gail Davidson** and three other intrepid Alaskan women for a sea kayaking excursion in Alaska last summer. Based at a Forest Service cabin in a sheltered embayment of Cochrane Bay (south of Whittier), they explored local fjords and inlets, and encountered otters, seals, kittiwakes, and eagles. Just days later, Gail went to the remote Brooks Range for an even more adventurous, 30-day canoe trip down the Chandalar and Yukon Rivers.

—Class Correspondents: Carol Harden (charden@utk.edu); Diantha

Bartlett Howard (diantha.howard@uvm.edu); Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com).

1971

Amazing things can happen at reunions, and for **Grove Nichols**, his 45th Reunion at Stanford Business School turned out to be life changing. At a time when most of us have settled into predictable routines, Grove signed up for a two-hour Reunion workshop titled "Designing Your Life." Sadly, the impetus for this was the unexpected end of his 44-year marriage to his wife, Sally. He realized he needed to "get back on the horse" and do something entirely different with his life. For many years he'd talked about someday teaching a course at Middlebury, where he was "nominally" (Grove's word) an English major. During the workshop, everyone was asked to develop several different five-year life plans. Grove found that one of these, his "Pipedream Plan" to return to the East Coast and teach a course at Middlebury, elicited wild applause within his breakout group. (Meanwhile, his "Same Old, Same Old Plan" to restart his consulting practice in Sacramento sparked a unanimous thumbs-down.) Grove walked away inspired and said, "I gotta do it!" He then reconnected with his freshman year roommate and DU fraternity brother, **Churchill Franklin** (a.k.a. "Mr. Middlebury"), who introduced him to all the right people, including Tim Nguyen, professor of business and finance at Middlebury and academic director of the Professor of the Practice program. The result was Grove's J-term course, which he titled From Shakespeare to Wall Street: Management and the Liberal Arts. He began each class with a quote from Shakespeare that was germane to the topic of the day: strategy, accounting and finance, entrepreneurship and innovation, leadership and organizational culture, crisis management, ethics, environmental awareness, and economic policy. Said Grove, "My goal was to create a 'Wow!' experience for my students, but in the end, it was really a 'Wow!' experience for me. And the good news is that I got to teach it again this January, in addition to a new, fall semester course Churchill and I cotaught called Mastering Money: Banking and Investment Essentials." **Karen Lindsay Palmer** adds, "Grove's J-term class was also a 'Wow!' experience for **VG Gooding**, his wife, Diane, and me, as we happened to be in town on the same day and were able to sit in on Grove's class on ethics. When the class was over, I literally had to sit on my hands to keep from clapping. Grove has a natural gift for teaching, as well as an affinity for his students that keeps them fully engaged." When not in the classroom, Grove is a ski instructor at Stratton Mountain, has been a tennis pro at Stratton, and played competitive hockey last winter at a Manchester, Vt., rink.

We were pleased to hear from **Rob Waters**, who reported on some of his recent adventures. "Eileen Heyes and I have lived in Raleigh, N.C., for 30 years now, and we like it except for two things—July and August. One day the temp hit 104, and no, it wasn't a dry heat. This year's remedy was a three-week escape to Iceland, where it was about 40 degrees cooler. Oh, and there's scenery in every direction—volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, waterfalls. The natives are friendly, and they speak English better than most of us do. We recommend Iceland. Last March, I visited **Tom Giebink** in Bozeman, Mont., for a week of good skiing and great company. Tom is still a busy artist working in all manner of intriguing media. We also traveled in April to Austin to witness the total solar eclipse. The clouds parted just in time for a great show. The other highlight of the trip was a long, beery lunch with Austinites **Gail Cross Giebink** and husband Doug. Great to catch up with them. In other news, North Carolina Humanities has chosen Eileen's book, *Bountiful Red Acres: Two Farms, Two Families, and a Year on the Land,* as its 2024 Great Read for children. By the time you read this, it will have represented our state at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, and we'll be there."

Speaking of connections among classmates, we'd love to hear from more of you about which Midd friends you keep in touch with and how you maintain those relationships over time. Some of us visit regularly; others communicate through email, phone, or social media. **Alison Bielli Nichols** and **Gail Giebink** reconnected around our 50th Reunion, and now they play daily word games across the miles from Maine to Texas. **Jim Ouimette** and **Jim Runcie** became close friends at Middlebury and then joined together as business partners in 1985 to create the law firm of Ouimette and Runcie in Vergennes. A small Middlebury community has coalesced in southeastern Vermont, which includes **Carolyn Ungberg Olivier** and husband Jim '72, **Francie Marbury**, **Brent Seabrook**, **John Gambell**, **Martha Murray**, and **Christopher Irion,** who get together regularly. **Joanna Mintzer** and **Nancy Charlesworth** met at the freshman orientation picnic at Bread Loaf, and their lives kept intersecting throughout college. Afterward, they stayed connected through letters and visits, despite living geographically far apart. (Nancy lived on the West Coast from 1971 until she moved to Maine in 1997.) They remain in close touch to this day.

Finally, we're sad to inform you of the deaths in 2024 of two of our classmates. **Neil Strock** passed away on January 24 and **Karl John Peterson** died on January 3. You can read their obituaries by googling their names.

—Class Correspondents: Gail Cross Giebink (ggiebink@utexas.edu); Carolyn Ungberg Olivier (carolyn.olivier@gmail.com); Karen Lindsay Palmer (kpalmer@hbr.org).

1972

The Class of '72 had a nice showing at Alumni College at the end of August. **Ingrid Stanlis** organized a Wednesday night dinner at the Waybury Inn and told us about her recent trip to the Faroe Islands. **Gordon Huth** came in from Austin, Texas, where he has retired from infectious disease medicine and has become an avid swimmer. **Evey Zmudsky LaMont**, with husband Tom Singer, flew in from Montana by way of Hopkinton, N.H., where they were treated to **Skip** and Janet Frey '73 **DeVito**'s amazing culinary skills.

Our '72 classmates distributed themselves well among the Alumni College classes, so we had much to talk about at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **Bill Carlough**, **Dan Missildine**, and **George Cady** took Putinism and Russian Culture; **Ingrid Stanlis** took the *David Copperfield/Demon Copperhead* seminar; **Evey LaMont** learned about the science of exercise and aging (exercise and drink a glass of water first thing in the morning!); and **Skip DeVito**, **Eric Samp**, **Charli Fulton**, **Grace Parker**, and **Barb McFadden** pored through James Madison's notes on the Constitutional Convention, the Trump indictments, Supreme Court opinions, and the Federalist papers for Murray Dry's class, Executive Powers in the Founders' Constitution. There was less talk about politics than you might imagine although that was on our minds. Instead, we caught up with the ups and downs of our lives, shared similar experiences with aging, and just enjoyed being in a familiar environment with good people.

Longtime West Hartford, Conn., resident **Al Fiacre** "retired" from a 25-year career as a financial professional back in 1999—and has spent the last 25 years pursuing a second career in genealogy! Initially focused on "learning my own family's roots," he soon discovered the Godfrey Memorial Library, a genealogical research library in nearby Middletown. Before long, he began volunteering at the library. Now board chair, and still a staff volunteer, he gives genealogy talks to libraries and clubs and oversees all of Godfrey's major research projects. His banking background also helps with library business matters. In 2017, Al published a 500-page book on the family of his maternal grandmother, based on his years of research (not only at the library but also in the field, as far away as Germany). "Believe me, this was not a big seller," Al says of the book; but in 2018, it won the Best Family Genealogy Award from the National Genealogical Society and a similar blue ribbon from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Back in the day, Al was a classics major at Midd. He then earned an MBA from New York Univ., where the writing skills he honed at Middlebury more than made up for his lack of prior business education. "You never know where a Middlebury degree leads you," he says now. "That's the beauty of a liberal arts education." After years away from

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Herbert Martin (MLitt '72) wrote the libretto for Adolphus Hailstork's choral work, *A Knee on the Neck,* which was performed by the National Philharmonic at Strathmore for its world premiere. The work commemorates George Floyd, who died in May 2020.

Sister **Monica Weis** (MA '73), emerita professor of English, Nazareth University, has published *The Good Rain, Volume II,* a chronicle of the last 20 years of ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester in Brazil. This story of risk taking and ongoing commitment links the 17th-century portrait of a Sister of St. Joseph as one with "eyes open, ears attentive, spirit alert…sleeves rolled up for ministry" with the courageous women who today live in the interior of Brazil.

Acclaimed Black Filipinx playwright and Kilroys List honoree **Roger Q. Mason** (MA '14) was awarded the McKnight National Residency and Commission from the prestigious Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, Minn. They traveled to Minneapolis to create a new play, receive development support, and engage with local artists and Playwrights' Center staff and fellows. They planned to develop a new performance work called *Mahogany Hall,* celebrating and probing the life and legacy of Lulu White, one of the most (in)famous madams of Storyville, the red light district of turn-of-the-century New Orleans.

Sara Arnold (MA '15) writes, "I started a small press during the early pandemic alongside my regular work as a longtime freelance copy editor. It's called June Road Press, and it's quickly become a calling. I'm putting out two full-length poetry collections a year, and last season's books have won several prizes, which has been validating. It's a one-woman operation; I handle everything from the editorial and production to design and business aspects." One of the books she published is *Maps You Can't Make* by fellow Bread Loaf alum, **Mariella Saavedra Carquin** (MA '22), which has also gotten accolades, including receiving a gold medal in the poetry category for the IPPY Awards and a finalist designation for the Colorado Book Award in poetry. You can read a review of the book on middleburymagazine.com.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

This past spring, the American Academy in Rome announced the 2024–2025 winners of the highly prestigious Rome Prize. **Shannah Rose** ('19–'21) was chosen in the category of Renaissance and early modern studies. Recipients receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board at the Academy's campus on Janiculum Hill in Rome for either five months or 10 months. Shannah says, "My language studies at Middlebury's Italian School transformed my research and contributed to my receipt of this prestigious award." The prize is given annually to American artists and scholars for research and work in the arts and humanities.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

Sayat Mukhamediyar (MATI '18), whose master's was in Russian translation and interpretation, has translated the entire *Harry Potter* series into Kazakh. In Kazakhstan, where Sayat grew up, most translations are in Russian, and he wanted those who speak Kazakh to be able to read the books. He himself struggled to get through the Russian text of the series as a child, and he wanted to make the stories more accessible to Kazakh speakers. Answering an ad for a translator at Steppe & World Publishing, whose mission is to expand available titles in the Kazakh language, Sayat took the lead with a team of three and translated all seven books. The Society of Environmental Journalists recently presented **Nick Rahaim** (MAIEP '22) with a second-place award for an outstanding small-market feature story in their 22nd Annual Awards for Reporting on the Environment. Nick was a deckhand on a longline vessel for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska in 2013 when he witnessed fishermen shooting at sperm whales eating the fish off their lines. With a grant from the Center for the Blue Economy, he began to do research and wrote about the issue in "Clever Whales and the Violent Fight for Fish on the Line."

KATHRYN WASSERMAN DAVIS SCHOOL OF RUSSIAN

Middlebury alum Charlie Buell '63 sent word that the bio of the final speaker of the 2024 Summer Lecture Series of Osher@Dartmouth impressed him. **Sarah Paine** (MA '89) was giving a talk about "Geopolitics, Lessons from the Cold War, and the Way Forward." Sarah is the William S. Sims University Professor of History and Grand Strategy in the Strategy and Policy Dept. of the U.S. Naval War College.

SCHOOL OF SPANISH

This past spring **Antonella Ciamacco Merolla** (MA '98) served as a judge in world languages for Berk's Best, which honors the best high school seniors in Berks County, Pa., in various categories. She is an instructor of Spanish and Italian and the world languages coordinator at Alvernia Univ. in Reading, Pa.

the campus, Al returned to Midd in July for the 2024 Alumni Golf Tournament, where he reconnected with friends from other classes but was the sole '72 golfer. Anticipating next summer's tournament, he encourages other '72 golfers to join in.

Now some sad news to report: **Mark Carolla** died in July after battling a variety of health challenges. He spent his career in service to the country through roles in the Army, Navy, and Defense Department and rose to lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. At Middlebury, Mark studied German, Russian, and medieval history while also serving as a lieutenant in the Army ROTC. After graduation, he spent two years in the Army before earning a master's in foreign affairs from the Univ. of Virginia. His civilian career in the Department of Defense was in the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. (In his 50th Reunion bio, he noted humorously that he had worked with "every three-letter intelligence agency of the 'deep state.'") Per his brother Bob '78, one of the highlights of Mark's career was serving in the U.S. delegation in conventional arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union, in Geneva, Switzerland. Throughout his life, Mark was a lifelong learner ("always reading or studying a new language") and a captivating storyteller with a sense of humor. He met his wife, Leeann, while both worked in naval intelligence; she, their two daughters, and two granddaughters survive. Mark will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors at a later date.

In September, **Daniel Suman** reported the death of his mother, one day after her 100th birthday. Classmates on Facebook may remember his indomitable mother (who held various positions in the Federal Civil Service) from the frequent pictures Dan posted of the two of them, always with glowing smiles. "I know most of our classmates have lost their parents by now," he noted. Then he added, "It leaves a huge void."

Chris Downs writes, "**George Seivwright** and I are continuing our yearly hikes together. Having completed the Long Trail in Vermont in 2022, we decided to continue our adventures by section hiking the Appalachian Trail in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. This past summer we added another 100 miles through the White Mountains, now having hiked a total of 282 miles through Vermont and New Hampshire. We're hoping to finish on Mount Katahdin in Maine before our 55th—only 311 miles to go!"

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@gmail.com).

1973

Greetings from **Deborah** and **Rob**! We've been so happy to see many of you on various Zooms since our 50th Reunion. If you aren't receiving our emails about links, we may not have your correct email, so please drop one of us a line! We email everyone on the list and post the links on our class Facebook page, but there are some gaps in the list and social media does not reach everyone. Please send us news, too, for the print version of the magazine.

Rob Badger writes, "I am president of the Landgrove (Vermont) Historical Society, a town in which my family has had roots since 1929 and to which I returned after retiring from teaching at SUNY Potsdam in 2015. This past summer I finished editing a book my uncle wrote in the mid-1970s, *The Cheese That Changed Many Lives*. In 1929 he and a friend came into the village of Landgrove in search of a particular cheese sold at the ramshackle store in the village. He found that the handful of houses and barns in the tiny village were abandoned and could be purchased for a few hundred dollars each, along with considerable acreage surrounding the village. The grist and sawmill in town had burned, and those who worked there had gradually moved away. So, he bought the village, fixed up the houses, and sold them to friends from down-country. Today Landgrove is a thriving village with third, fourth, and fifth generations of those original friends still in residence. But the book was fraught with factual errors, typos, and grammatical errors, so I spent months doing research, and I added 40 photographs to the book. We released it at the opening of the Historical Society's annual summer show."

Deborah Greenhut reports, "Yours truly will be publishing a book on my current passion project, *Sharegiving*, which will be a guide for new family caregivers. I'm also launching a podcast about this same topic, and I have launched a *Substack* newsletter as well. I speak at Rotary Clubs and women's clubs around the country. Please let me know if you have a group that needs a speaker—and if you're interested in being interviewed about family caregiving for my podcast, please let me know. I am pondering an online summit for this year or early next, so stay tuned."

We're closing with the sad news of the passing of our classmate, **Bill Porter**, on July 28, at his home in Northfield, Mass. Our sincere condolences to Bill's family. Three friends have shared recollections: **Jon Hird** says, "Bill Porter was never a follower. A staunch Republican conservative at a time when college campuses were awash with jeans, denim jackets, and antiwar patches, Bill was never without creased khakis and button-down shirts. His arch humor and acerbic observations were a staple at our social gatherings, and he was certainly known to have a cocktail or two during our four years. He always went his own way in all things. That's the Bill I remember."

Nonie Ferris writes, "I was lucky enough to stay in touch with Bill in NYC and D.C.; I only wish he could have made it to our last Reunion! Bill was known for being an ardent Young Republican at Midd and was dubbed 'P.P.' for President Porter. We had memorable trips to D.C. and to Governor Dean Davis's inaugural ball, and on one trip got lost in the wilds of the Northeast Kingdom. Bill had a great sense of humor, and I can still hear him recounting the meeting with Harry Webb '44 to raise money 'for the cause,' which became totally sidetracked by Webb's admiration of Bill's tie!"

Bill Wood adds, "Bill's passing leaves life less funny and interesting. He was a true original. He was a great friend at Midd while we covered thousands of miles inside Vermont campaigning for various candidates, the merry band most often including future Governor Jim Douglas '72 and **Nonie Ferris**. Bill had an amusing impatience with hypocrisy and dullards. Politicians provided a target-rich environment for his perceptive and cutting observations. One example: We all went to the White House in January 1971 as part of a Republican leadership school. We ended up in the East Room being serenaded on the piano by President Nixon. Bill had had enough after a long day of tedious blabbering and announced he was hungry, and we should go to dinner. He was not overly impressed with Nixon or his piano playing and said so. With Bill leading, we were the only people who walked out, under the disapproving gaze of the Marine guards. And I will always remember Bill's hospitality. He was the only Midd Kid with a bar and a cocktail hour when he and **Jon Hird** were roommates. His unique sense of humor touched everyone and everything and brightened them. My college days were immensely enriched by knowing him." Bill sent a scan of a photo that appears in Jim Douglas's memoir, *The Vermont Way*. He writes, "The picture was taken at that leadership school. Bill is on the far left, where he never was otherwise, Nonie Ferris is seated, then Jim Douglas and I are on either side of Senator George Aiken, who was making a point about how untrustworthy Nixon was. Seriously."

—Class Correspondents: Rob Badger (randcbadger@gmail.com); Deborah Greenhut (deborah.greenhut@gmail.com).

1974

Over the course of four days in early June, under partly sunny/partly cloudy skies, and with an occasional shower for old times' sake, members of the Class of 1974 celebrated our 50th Reunion. About 220 classmates and guests were in attendance. Planning for the Reunion began a year in advance by about three dozen volunteers, with considerable assistance from College staff. Early efforts centered around raising awareness and encouraging attendance. Numerous communications were developed and sent out. And, a series of Zoom calls, moderated by **Dan Flanagan**, **Jim** and **Pam Gaylord McNaughton**, **Karen Massey**, and **Katy Kiley** were held over the winter to provide opportunities to help us get reacquainted with one another and to talk up the Reunion. In addition, **Elke Ostler Hanna** and Dan headed up a group that developed and distributed what can only be described as a massive Class of 1974 yearbook that contained class autobiographies and biographies of deceased class members, as well as a series of photos, articles, and reminiscences dealing with our time at Middlebury. As for the Reunion itself, the Social Committee, chaired by **Steve Trebino**, planned activities and events that were structured to provide opportunities for people to reconnect with the College and with one another.

Thursday provided some optional campus tours along with a session conducted by **Richard Hirsh**, **Mildred Reese McNeill**, and **David O'Connor** to review the results of a previously distributed class survey. President Laurie Patton joined us later that evening for a reception and dinner, where she briefly described the current state of the College and reviewed plans for the future. Also, at this event, Gift Committee co-chairs **Nancy Kolligian**, **Vivienne Longo**

KITCHEN MUST-HAVES
WITH

ROBYNNE MAII '96

James Beard Award–winner and executive chef at Fête, her farm-to-table restaurant in Honolulu, Hawaii

Gochujang paste: I grew up with this as a pantry item, as my maternal grandmother is pure Korean. Gochujang has loads of umami and a good amount of sweetness, which makes for an addictive eating experience. It's very versatile—dab it on morsels of grilled meat before wrapping them in lettuce, or turn it into dipping sauces and marinades. My new favorite way to use it is to mix a spoonful into red sauce for a delicious fra diavolo pasta.

High-quality salted butter: My mother used salted butter for all her baking, but when I started my culinary career, I became an "unsalted butter only" person. But, in the last few years, I have begun to keep salted butter at the ready for my morning toast and bread eating at any time of the day. Delicious.

Golden raisins: I think raisins get a bad rap. Normally associated with bran cereal or cookies, raisin eating in America seems to be a polarizing subject. I use golden raisins like the Italians do. For savory applications, I soak them overnight in vinegar to soften and then stir them into braised bitter greens or quickly sautéed spinach. For sweet dishes, I soak them in brandy or rum and then chop them finely before using. They make cakes, especially chocolate ones, moist. They blend in without anyone knowing they are eating raisins—and yet, you'd miss them if they were omitted.

CLASS ACTS

Trebino, and **Alan Levy** announced a $1.2 million class gift and the establishment of the Class of 1974 Scholarship fund. On Friday morning we attended a talk by Professor Emeritus David Stameshkin, who reviewed the history of the College during our era. That was followed by a beautiful and moving memorial service for 44 deceased members of our class held in the chapel and organized by **Mary Lee-Clark**, with the assistance of several other ministers and musicians from our group. Later we heard from Admissions Dean Nicole Curvin. This was followed up with another reception and dinner. We used this opportunity to thank members of the Gift, Yearbook, and Social Committees, and participants in the memorial service, as well as Lyn DeGraff and Tiffany Stowe, our College staff contacts for Reunion planning. After the dinner, most of us elected to attend a campus-wide Moth (storytelling session). **Mildred** was one of the participants. Her story, dealing with her experiences as a student, was both meaningful and entertaining. On Saturday we went on a short hike and heard from **Mark Patinkin**, who provided an interesting, first-person account of his recent assignment covering the war in the Middle East for the *Providence Journal*. He also talked about a book he was writing called *The Holy Land at War*, which has since come out. We then joined the other Reunion classes for Convocation in the chapel, followed by yet another reception/dinner/dance under the tents behind the Mahaney Arts Center. In general, there was a nice vibe about this Reunion. Attendees seemed to enjoy the activities and events as well as the opportunities to meet and reconnect with one another.

Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 79.

—Class Correspondents: Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).

1975

REUNION CLASS

Start thinking about our 50th Reunion! **David Perlman** wrote to say that he is co-chairing the Yearbook Committee with **Jill Rogers Coffrin**. He was also planning to attend Alumni College with his wife, Rachel, last Labor Day Weekend, as they have done for a number of years.

Jill Coffrin adds, "A few months ago, David reached out to see if I'd join our 50th Reunion Yearbook Committee. Remembering the positive reconnections with classmates I'd found working on our 25th yearbook, I jumped in. So far it's been an equally rewarding experience. I hope that many of our '75 classmates will return to campus for our Reunion on June 5–8. As for here in Vermont, **Jamie** and I are doing well, getting ready to celebrate our own 50th. Postretirement life got off to a slow start with the pandemic arriving at the same time. But now we're back to traveling and spending time with our three grandkids, one here in Burlington and two in Seattle. Frequent flier miles are piling up. One highlight from the natural world last spring was the chance to witness the total solar eclipse, Burlington being directly in the path of totality. A group of us watched and chattered, wearing our eclipse glasses and casually admiring the view of the disappearing sun. But when the moment of totality arrived, the mood changed to hushed and total awe. Three minutes of humbling silence in witness to one of nature's most impressive acts. It produced a standing ovation. It's been a while since I've sent in any news, but I still enjoy returning to Middlebury now and then to walk the beautiful campus and see all those amazing young faces just starting out. Hoping to see many of our 'old faces' at the 50th!"

—Class Correspondent: Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com).

1976

Brian Holtan still has a business in Brooklyn, managing his rental properties, but he spends most of his time in Fayston, Vt., where skiing (both resort and backcountry) remains an important part of his life. In 2022 he and two ski buddies completed a two-season epic ski traverse of the Alps, ski touring from Menton, France, on the Mediterranean to the end of the Alps in Austria, traveling 880 miles and climbing 320,000 vertical feet in 66 days of travel. He followed that up in 2023 with a 10-day trip to eastern Greenland with his wife, Annika, sister Kim '81, and three friends. "We pulled sleds with our tents and supplies, and, a first for me, our equipment included a high-powered rifle due to polar bear danger (we never saw one!)." This year he took two trips, one in May, a 10-day winter camping trip to the Chickaloon Glacier in the Talkeetna Mountains of Alaska with eight friends; and the Icefall Traverse, a really fun hut-to-hut trip in British Columbia and Alberta with some Vermont ski friends. Brian has regular mini-reunions with several Midd classmates, including **Chris** and Sally Grimes '75 **Barron**, **Harry Blackman**, **Bill Schiffman**, **Scott Pitz**, and **Roger Prince**, along with Mary Gilmore Kirkpatrick '78 and Tanice Trucksess Fitzpatrick '78. Venues have included Cape May, N.J., NYC, New Hampshire, and Vermont: "We can still party, though not at the level of our Midd days—no more all-nighters, and our bedtimes are much earlier, but we're still no slouches. If any classmates are in Vermont skiing, look me up at Mad River Glen, where I spend most of my time! Off season, I enjoy riding the local singletrack on my mountain bike and inline speed skating."

Chris Ryer lives in Cumberland, Maine, with his wife, Mary, and continues to practice law in the areas of real estate, business, probate, estate planning, and contract law: "Retirement is likely sometime next year at a time to be named later. I'm happy to disclose, though, that I have two grandsons, one of whom is two, and the other is just over six months. They live right down the road from us, since my daughter, Annie, and her husband moved here from Woburn, Mass., in April. My other two daughters live in Portsmouth, N.H. Elizabeth '07 is a physician with the Leahy clinic and Meg works for Liberty Insurance."

Anne Lebourgeois Grieves writes, "In November 2021, husband Robert and I moved back to New Canaan, Conn., after 13 years living and working in Hong Kong. The decision was made easier by travel restrictions into Hong Kong on nonresident family members (our kids!), long quarantines for returning resident travelers (up to three weeks!), and general malaise over COVID and new national security laws in that special city, 24 years following its return to Chinese sovereignty. We are now settled back into New Canaan, reacquainting with many friends from years past, and especially enjoying frequent visits with daughters Alex '09, Chinese School '06, who lives in London working as a strategy director in a global urban design consultancy while getting her masters in global urbanism; and Tory, who lives in Asheville, N.C., works remotely for S&P Global Sustainable I, and who married last year! We've also enjoyed extended family celebrations in Washington, D.C., and New Orleans (Mardi Gras!). Robert and I continue to consult with clients in Asia, through our HK-based strategic communications firm, Hamilton Advisors, and our New Canaan outpost. After 21 years in Asia (including five years in Hong Kong in the 1990s and three years in Beijing in the 1980s), we can't shake the bug completely and are called upon to 'unpack' changes in Hong Kong (and China) for various audiences. We do visit Hong Kong and Asia periodically, most recently in March/April of this year, and maintain close ties to various groups, including the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, of which Robert was two-time chairman. We stay active in New Canaan with sports, lots of music, and arts events and enjoy regular meetups in NYC with friends and family. I look forward to reconnecting with Midd friends and being a better attendee of Midd events and Reunions going forward."

Gail Robinson Mead sent news: "Several members of the Class of '76 and other friends were in Ellsworth, Maine, at **Rick Maeder**'s house to celebrate our collective 70th birthdays. Those present included **Chris Barron** and wife Sally '75, **Richard 'Bubba'** and **Laurie Smith Parker**, **Andrea Mahee**, **Jack Henderson**, **Rick Maeder**, **Roz Walrath**, **Richard Hodges**, Tony Melchior '77, **Eli** and **Jill Robinson Haizlip**, and **Christopher Mead** and me. We all send greetings and love to the rest of the Class of '76. See you next year!"

We regret to report these deaths: **Carol Bliss Griggs** died on August 17, 2023, and **Thomas Hitch** died on December 30, 2023. Our condolences go to their families.

—Class Correspondents: P. Joan Ingram Gavigan (joan.gavigan@gmail.com); Gary Holmes (garyholmes76@gmail.com)

1977

The College received an article that was in *Democrats Abroad* and featured **Christine Lansdale Willis**, who was exhibiting her art in a show in Athens, Greece. Christine lives near Thessaloniki, where she grew up, and she has been creating ceramics for the past 50 years. She also manages a small business called Willis Ceramics, teaches ceramic arts, and manages a ceramics studio at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki. The major influences for her work come from Ancient Greek pottery.

Ellen Fairchild Martyn hosted a mini-reunion last April at her home in Brattleboro, Vt. As part of their get-together, the group visited **Steve Procter**'s studio, also in Brattleboro, which was featured in the *New York Times* that same week in April. Steve provided a tour and explained how he creates gigantic pots. (The article was in the April 3, 2024, issue for more detail.) Present at the gathering were Dick '75 and **Debbie Adams Leavitt**, **Patricia Wilson**, **Jean Woodcock**, **Ty Danco**, David Webster '75, **Lynn Dyer**, **Connie Vial Green**, **Sam Hamlin**, and **Sue Kenyon**.

As noted during the mini-reunion weekend, it has been more than 50 years since we all met each other that first fall in Middlebury, and many wonderful friendships were created and maintained. Which also means our 50th Midd Reunion is starting to creep up over the horizon and it's time to start planning.

—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (boblindbergl928@gmail.com).

1978

—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (ddjaffray@gmail.com); Anne Rowell Noble (anne.noble@gmail.com).

1979

—Class Correspondent: Henry Heyburn (hrheyburn@hotmail.com).

1980

REUNION CLASS

The College received this exciting news: **Michael Rambert**, who is general counsel and corporate secretary at Morehouse School of Medicine, became one of the Stakeholder Impact Foundation's newest fellows as a thought leader of board governance and stakeholder of capitalism. On June 26, he appeared on the Nasdaq Board in Times Square in NYC! Michael has been able to bring attention to the healthcare crisis by highlighting the impactful work that the Morehouse School of Medicine is engaged in to promote health justice and health equity in underserved urban and rural communities. Congratulations, Michael!

In May, **Robin Bell** and **Karl Coplan** returned to Nyack, N.Y., after filling a lifelong dream of sailing a small boat around the world. Leaving Nyack in May 2022 on the *Mabel Rose,* they traversed five oceans and five seas and touched five continents, having amazing adventures along the way. From waking in the mornings in Polynesia to joyous singing coming from the harbors, to attending a church service in Tongo with a male choir formally dressed and accompanied by a tuba band, they had experiences they'll never forget.

We hope to see you at our Reunion on June 6–8! Please come!!

—Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd (annie.cowherd@att.net); Kimberly Winick (kimberly.winick@gmail.com).

1981

Cary Beckwith sent a fun Midd story: "I'm working on hiking the 115 mountains in the Northeast that are 4,000 feet or higher. This includes the Adirondack 46, the Catskills 2, Vermont 5, New Hampshire 48, and Maine 14. (So far I have hiked 104 out of 115.) I was hiking Mount Katahdin in Maine this past summer, and the trail I was planning to take was closed. I decided, after talking to the park ranger, that I would hike Knife Edge to Katahdin. It sounded fine until I was up on the ridge looking over at it. I was hiking alone as my regular hiking buddies weren't able to come. As I looked at it, I was saying to myself that there was no way I was hiking it alone. There were no other hikers except one coming toward me going the other way. I was considering my choices and leaning toward going a different way, maybe not even making it to the top. Just then, over the ridge came three young people. They said they were going over Knife Edge to Katahdin, and they invited me to join them and hike it with them! They were so kind and friendly. When I said

CLASS ACTS

I lived in Vermont, two of them told me they were Middlebury College graduates—I told them I was too! We had so much fun hiking and talking together over Knife Edge and up to Katahdin. I'm so grateful that Andrew Michelson '19 and Giulia Park '19, and their friend, Vivian Graham, were my trail angels that day!"

A group of 1981 friends all convened at Villa Giara, the country inn owned by Stephen Croncota '80 in the wine country of Piemonte in northern Italy. **Kathy Leary McCarthy**, **Cynthia Strong**, **Stacey Pogust Danziger**, **Elaine King Nickerson**, and **Susan Taylor** enjoyed wine tasting, eating great food, truffle hunting, eating great food, birding, eating great food, and visiting the beautiful cities of Asti and Alba. Before and after Villa Giara, the group visited Milan, Venice, Cinque Terre, Lake Como, and other Italian spots. It was a great reunion of old friends in Bella Italia. Check out a photo on page 85.

Last winter **Margaret Commins** attended a weeklong yoga retreat at Ashiyana Resort in Goa, India, which was led by Midd alum Susanna Rubin '89. Margaret was first introduced to Susanna when Middlebury presented a Zoom yoga class for alumni during the pandemic lockdown. Check out a photo on page 61.

Hope Hayden Kelley and husband Craig visited their son Cooper in Kenai, Alaska, last July. They made a stop in Anchorage and had a chance to go for a hike with me (**Alice Tower Knapp**) and enjoy a halibut dinner. See a photo on page 85. Here's an open invitation to fellow classmates—if you are coming to Alaska, let me know and I'd love to catch up with you. Don't forget to send me your class notes.

—Class Correspondent: Alice Tower Knapp (a.knapp.a@gmail.com).

1982

Mimi Gleason writes, "I've just retired from over 30 years of teaching middle school. I loved being a teacher and will miss it, but I'm ready for the next challenge! Three grandchildren and biking and skiing will be part of keeping me busy."

An update came from **Keith O'Hara**: "A small *fin de siècle* of sorts happened for me last spring. In 2004, I dropped the oldest of my seven children at Bates College for her first year and, nearly 20 years later, we celebrated my seventh and youngest child's graduation from Connecticut College. *Olé*! I'm also pleased to share that in busy May '24, two other O'Hara bambini earned a PhD and MA respectively."

Keith and **Creighton Cray** shared some sad news—**Greg Tolman** passed away peacefully on July 5, 2024, surrounded by his family. At Middlebury, Greg majored in math and minored in American literature. He was an RA in Battell Center, served as a Big Brother for Addison County Counseling Services, played intramural hockey, and was a radio announcer for Panther hockey games. He graduated magna cum laude and as a Phi Beta Kappa Scholar. After graduating from Middlebury, Greg taught math at Noble and Greenough for two years and then went on to work at IBM for the next 40 years. He started out as a systems engineer and ended his career as a retail digital consultant. Greg married the love of his life, Kathleen, in 1989. Together, they raised four incredible children: Nick, Nate, Andrea, and Emily. Greg was extremely proud of his kids and their accomplishments. He was an involved coach for their many sports teams and president of the Scarborough (Maine) Soccer Club. In addition to organized team sports, Greg loved the outdoors, especially the mountains and coastal Maine, and he enjoyed many years of hiking, skiing, and kayaking with friends and family. Greg is remembered by fellow Middlebury classmates as being a dedicated friend with a good sense of humor, a true scholar, and a man of great integrity. From Middlebury, **KC Cederholm**, **Keith O'Hara**, and Rich Silton '80 attended Greg's funeral service on July 11.

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo920@gmail.com); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).

1983

—Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).

1984

Highlights of Reunion for the Class of 1984 include listening to our classmate **David Torres** shine in the Moth storytelling event at Dana Auditorium. **Michaela Stickney**'s scything demonstration at the Knoll offered both a hands-on experience and a chance to see Middlebury's organic garden, a quintessentially Middlebury event. The class was well represented in the Saturday morning 5K, and many classmates visited the **Elizabeth Hackett Robinson** '84 Innovation Hub Open House to see firsthand this program that nurtures entrepreneurs. The rooms in Gifford haven't changed much since we were students although modern security meant using a card to get into the dorm and key codes to open the rooms. **Jim** and **Elizabeth Robinson** graciously hosted a final brunch on Sunday morning at their Weybridge home.

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Smith Vaccaro (elizvaccaro@gmail.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).

1985

REUNION CLASS

As we prepare for our 40th (!) Reunion, we check in with our Massachusetts area alums. **Andy** and **Kim Davis Gluck** celebrated daughter Samantha's marriage during the summer of 2023 as well as Andy's retirement from Newton Public Schools after 17 years. Kim continues in her capacity as a managing director at the Boston Trust Walden Company.

Rawson Hubbell is still working full time as a trust and estate strategist for a large registered investment advisor. He and his wife, Sarah, live outside Boston while their kids live in San Francisco and Bristol, England. Earlier this year Rawson and Sarah had an amazing African safari experience with both kids and their partners. In March 2023, Rawson met up with **Todd Dietrich**, **Jon Roth** (recently published author of *Birch, Mind of the Dragonflies*), and **Josh Klein** for a few days of awesome skiing in Park City.

Martha Himes recently took a fabulous trip to Iceland, where she saw puffins up close and did a bunch of hiking and knitting. Martha is still working and volunteering, sitting on her community's Affordable Housing Trust board, which she's done for the past 16 years.

Amanda Vaughan Walter retired in November 2023 after having been in the food and beverage packaged goods space for her entire career at four different companies, most recently with Panera. Her husband is still working in real estate finance. Amanda's working on "what's next," taking some art classes and spending time visiting friends and family. Her oldest daughter is in Chicago, working on her medical residency following a PhD program at Cornell, while her youngest is now in London a few years after graduating from Penn.

Brian Concannon continues his valuable work as a human rights lawyer and executive director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. He and his wife, Marcy, and kids Evan (16) and Georgia (14) live in Marshfield, Mass.

After a distinguished career in banking, **Jack Klinck**'s "second career" has centered on serving on corporate boards and consulting as a senior advisor at BCG. But he's made time for winters skiing in Sun Valley and summers sailing in Newport. Two of Jack and Ruthie Hill Klinck's '84 three kids attended Midd, and one will celebrate his 5th Reunion the same weekend as our 40th.

Laurie Doyle is an executive director and partner for a life sciences communications consulting firm, part of a 25-year career in biotech and, she says, "surprising for someone who steered as far as possible from science at Midd. It's been a fulfilling and never-boring career." Laurie's daughter, Kira, recently graduated from law school and started her law career clerking for a Superior Court judge in D.C.

Cecil Barron Jensen is still on Nantucket working for an organization called Remain, which works closely with island nonprofits, businesses, and the town of Nantucket. The projects are diverse and include coastal resilience, commercial kitchens, community engagement, economic development, salvage and reuse of building materials, and much more. Cecil and our late friend **Paul**'s three girls are scattered across the world—Nantucket, Toronto, and Paris—and, Cecil says, "all thriving and making their parents proud!"

Sadly, our classmate **Chris Santella**, the creative force behind the best-selling travel book series *Fifty Places...Before You Die*, died on May 23, 2024, in Portland, Ore., of a rare, aggressive, treatment-resistant metastatic cancer of the sinuses. Chris was a writer, musician, marketing guru, and a fountainhead of ingenuity. He was a world traveler, approaching new places and experiences with enthusiasm and boundless curiosity, resulting in a prodigious body of creative work. In addition to the 19 books in the *Fifty Places* series, Chris coauthored a natural science book called *Cat Wars* with his childhood friend, the ornithologist Pete Marra. Chris wrote hundreds of articles on fly-fishing, golf, and other recreational pursuits, many appearing in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* as well as in regional publications, travel and airline magazines, and specialty journals dedicated to fishing, his beloved pastime. In 2017, Chris collected 30 of those occasional essays in an anthology, *The Tug Is the Drug*. During his two cycles of radiation therapy, Chris completed his first work of fiction—a fly-fishing guide's antics in Alaska entitled *Belgian Flats*. He also recorded an original rock opera about the segregationist governor George Wallace, along with a children's picture book called *Biking with Grandma*. A summary of Chris's life would not be complete without acknowledging his love of the Grateful Dead, and his organization and participation in the folk-rock band Catch and Release, which performed some original songs (many written by Chris), as well as covers of the Grateful Dead, Neil Young, the Rolling Stones and more. Chris is survived by Dee, his wife of 30+ years, and their adult daughters, Cassidy and Annabel.

—Class Correspondent: Dale Sailer (dalesailer@gmail.com).

1986

—Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).

1987

—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).

1988

We would like to send our condolences to classmates **Melissa Perry Fountain** and **Pam Lawson Quinn** for the loss of their fathers recently. Ted Perry died on June 10 and Tom Lawson died on August 20. They will be greatly missed. Obituaries for both fathers are in the back of this issue. You can also read longer obituaries on the Middlebury website in the In Memoriam section.

See a photo of a classmate on page 61.

—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).

1989

This past winter, **Susanna Rubin** led a weeklong yoga retreat at Ashiyana Resort in Goa, India, and had at least one other Midd Kid at the retreat: Margaret Commins '81 first learned of Susanna's yoga teaching during a Zoom class for alumni that Middlebury presented during the pandemic lockdown. Susanna is a yoga instructor and writer in New York City. See a photo of Susanna and Margaret on page 61.

Martha Meyer Agresta writes, "I moved to the Hudson Valley, where I am a psychologist for the county health department in forensic services, which involves working with the legal system to divert people with substance use and mental health issues into treatment. I'm proud to say Dutchess County has long been a leader in doing this important work. I have two wonderful kids. In my free time, I hike, read, and am relearning the cello. I'm in touch with **Janette DeBell Miller** and **Kristin Ness Sieglaff**."

We're sad to note the passing of **John Ogden** last year. Condolences to his family and friends.

—Class Correspondent: George Baxter (george.baxter@me.com).

1990

REUNION CLASS

Please put our 35th Reunion date on your calendar: June 6–8! Meanwhile, see a photo of classmates who attended **Steve Lauterbach**'s memorial service, on page 79.

—Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdougm@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).

1991

An update came from **John Waldron**: "I have six kids (crazy), ages 25 to 6, and I'm living in NYC. I serve as president of Goldman Sachs, and I joined Midd's Board of Trustees—great excuse to go back up to campus! I also sit on other boards, including

the Cleveland Clinic, Lincoln Center, Southern Methodist University (my two oldest girls attended there), U.S. China Business Council, and Monetary Authority Singapore."

Mike Rea writes, "I actually cruised through Midd on my way to Montreal with my 17-year-old; not likely to apply but it was fun to be back, though it was crazy dead in between sessions."

Jim Phillips is still a professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and is quite happy to be a former department chair. He enjoyed a sabbatical that extended through this fall, in which he was immersed in his lab and traveled periodically to Michigan State University to tap into some expertise over there (and also to explore rivers for migratory trout and salmon). He will be getting back into a marginal amount of administrative work, coleading a multidisciplinary program called Liberal Studies (for now). Jim is also still quite active musically, playing many shows around the Eau Claire area, and you can still hear his record (*Jim Phillips Project—Phase I*) on all the streaming platforms. Hopefully there will be a Phase II shortly.

Haig Demarjian is still exhibiting his art and says, "The opening at the Vincent Price Art Gallery was a blast! Packed house and the highlight of the night for me was touring the gallery with Victoria Price who turned to me and said, very genuinely, 'My father would have loved your work.'"

When **Monica Smith** wrote, she had just returned from a golf trip to Mt. Washington and was hoping to get back to Midd in October for Homecoming.

Jeremy Braddock writes, "I've just published a book on the Firesign Theatre, the '60s and '70s comedy group/media collective who were called 'the only rock band in the world that doesn't need music.' The book is published by the University of California Press and is called *Firesign: The Electromagnetic History of Everything as Told on Nine Comedy Albums*. Some of my important early research, shall we say, was conducted in Battell South. I live in upstate New York with my wife, Rayna, and two daughters, Astrid and Sylvie. I am an associate professor of literatures in English at Cornell."

—Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).

1992

Congratulations to **Michael Baumann**, who was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in November. He was one of the most prolific scorers on the men's basketball team and remains second on Middlebury's all-time scoring list with 1,733 points in his career. He's also still among the top 10 places in career field goals, rebounds, and blocks.

Check out a photo **Alex Blanton** sent on the next page.

—Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (lesliepagnotta917@gmail.com).

1993

RIZE Massachusetts, an independent nonprofit foundation solely dedicated to funding and creating solutions to end the overdose crisis in Massachusetts, recently announced that **Annmarie Benedict Pagliano** had been appointed an associate program officer. The program team manages strategic growth and implementation of RIZE's programmatic initiatives. She was previously serving as grants management consultant at Disability Rights Fund.

—Class Correspondent: John Linder (john.linder93@gmail.com).

1994

—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).

1995

REUNION CLASS

Last summer former cross-country teammates **Sean Kerwin**, **Jake Kritzer**, **Brendan Fitzsimons**, **Oliver Truog**, **Zac Laidley**, and **John "Cisco" Heller** hiked together in Rocky Mountain National Park. They have stayed in close touch over the years despite being scattered between Washington, D.C., and Maine. They've run a couple of marathons and long-distance relays, but this trip was the first time they were all together for a full week of hiking and reminiscing. For them, it was a potent reminder as they age of the inestimable value of the enduring friendships they forged at Middlebury. Check out a photo of the group on page 85.

Congratulations to **Tamsyn Stewart**, who was selected by the U.S. Dept. of State for a virtual project engaging English language learners and teachers online in Morocco. She is one of more than 100 Virtual English Language Educator Program participants this academic year.

—Class Correspondent: Julie Moriarty McDonough (juliemcdonough@gmail.com).

1996

Middlebury Athletics recently did an alumni spotlight on **Osam Iyahen**, who was a member of the men's track and field team while at Midd. Currently he is based in Lagos, Nigeria, and specializes in managing and investing in oil, gas, and mining across Africa. You can read an interview with him on the Athletics website.

—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).

1997

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).

1998

Tetyana Bisyk Denford checked in for the first time in a while. She writes, "My husband, Tom, and I lived in the UK for 12 years and started our family. I began a career as a translator for *Frontline PBS* and translated the documentary *The Battle for Ukraine* and also worked as a freelance writer. Also, in 2009, I sang with the BBC Symphony Choir in the BBC Proms, which was a cool opportunity. Moving back to New York, I self-published my first historical fiction novel, titled *Motherland*, in 2020 and it won several awards. I then self-published three more books (poetry) after that. In 2022, I was approached by Hachette UK/Bookouture to get signed to a book deal. My first novel was reissued as *The Child of Ukraine*, and in July 2023, my second novel was published and released as *The Soldiers Child*. Meanwhile, I was asked to translate a new documentary of war footage that AP/*Frontline* was getting from Ukraine. (My family is still living in Ukraine, during this war.) The documentary that I helped translate premiered in NYC as *20 Days in Mariupol*. In March of 2023, it won an Oscar. This year I have been working on writing courses on Substack and YouTube, as well as new translations, and have been commissioned to edit a book about the bombing of the Nova Kakhovka

CELEBRATIONS

1. Friends from the Class of 1974 attended the Boston Pops together: Vivienne Longo Trebino, Steve Trebino, Nancy Kolligian, and Dave Mozes.

2. Rachel Madding '13 married Brian Gurka on September 30, 2023, at the Gardener Ranch in Carmel Valley, Calif. Many Middlebury friends joined in the celebration: (all '13 unless noted) Stephen Lammers, Jocelyn Remmert, Mackenzie Stewart, Amy Schlueter, Maddy Boston, Caroline Downer '11, Lucy Wagner, Remsen Paul '76, the bride, Kendrick Campbell, Katherine Kucharczyk '16, Lindsay Kingston '14, Danielle Fahoome, and Colby Gibbs Kraszewski.

3. On June 30, 2023, Emma McDonald '16 married John Kennedy at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, Conn. The reception was held at the Roger Sherman Inn in New Canaan. In attendance were (all '16 unless noted) Kevin Dong, Anna McDonald '10, the bride, and Aviva Shwayder, (second row) Matthew Blake, Kit Tse, Audrey Goettl, the groom, Virginia Wiltshire-Gordon, and Khi Hua Chou '16.

4. Friends and family of Steve Lauterbach '90, who died in 2021, gathered last summer the night before his memorial service: (all '90 unless noted) Doug Meyer, Jenny Gallagher (Midd spouse), Stafford Meyer (Midd spouse), Bob Popeo, John Spellane, Gregg Beloff, Kim Spellane (Midd spouse), Tom Bredahl, Ted Lauterbach (Steve's son), Mike Lauterbach '96 (Steve's brother), Geoff Garfield, Mike Gill, Katie Garfield (Midd spouse), Ellen LeMaitre, Elizabeth Bredahl (Midd spouse), (second row) John Mariani, Tucker Cavanaugh, Andy Frey, Jim Quinn, Mark Dimaorca (non-Midd friend), Parker Vaughey, Jim Quirk, Pat Aylmer, and Ray Gallagher.

5. At the USA Ultimate Masters Championships in Aurora, Colo., Alex Blanton '92 and Seattle teammate Rodrigo Prudencio '91 competed against Joel Thompson '94, who was playing for Boston: Alex, Rodrigo, Joel.

6. Last fall, at a convening of United World College heads, several participants realized they all had a connection to Middlebury: Laurence Nodder (parent of Sarah Nodder '15), Petr Knor '15, Amy Geier (parent of Christopher Geier '06), Andrew Mahlstedt '98, Jacob Mnookin '01, and Philip Geier (parent of Christopher Geier '06).

dam in Ukraine and the volunteers who helped rescue the trapped civilians."

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com); Shruthi Mahalingaiah (shruthi@hsph.harvard.edu).

1999

For the 25th anniversary Reunion of the Class of 1999, a meaningful moment was our hike to honor the memory of classmates who have passed away. We gathered on Snake Mountain, narrowly missing driving rains that made the trip to the hike memorable and getting off the summit just in time to be avoid being soaked. This was incredibly well attended, and many classmates would echo this was the highlight of the weekend. The classmates we remembered included **Ezra Andersen** (7/27/1999); **Heather Budd** (11/29/2021); **Colin Canham III** (10/9/2022); **Glenn Edwards** (6/20/2006); **Shaun Esmond** (5/20/2008); **Mika Farrington** (3/5/2013); **Elizabeth Frankel** (1/12/2021); **Dana Gibson** (5/9/2011); **Scott Margolin** (6/1/1996); **John-Alexander Mason** (10/19/2011); **Shwe Mon** (4/29/2000); **Marija Udzenija** (10/18/1995); **Peter Westra** (7/8/2001). Special thanks go to **Melinda Ippolito Morrill** for leading this memorial and her husband, **Jeff Ippolito**, for braving the trail in his sandals. Listing everyone we ran into on the hike would basically recount the entire class roster, so some other highlights included my (**Peter**) bus ride to the hike with **Tim Ireland**, **Alison Hilger**, and **Suzy Lopez**, which was a mini-reunion of our MOO orientation trip. **Jon McMahon** beat most of us to the summit and **Jason Wyman** astutely knew when it was about to pour and got us back down. In addition, **Jeff Trail**, Matt Walker '01, and **Alex Fuller** gave very poignant tributes and remembrances of **Peter Westra**, **Scott Margolin**, and **Colin Canham**.

Friday evening, we saw many classmates at Mister Up's, including **Scott Tatlock**, **Kirstin Gerety Smith**, **Lindsay Ritter Westin** and **Forrest Westin** (thanks for all the hard work fundraising), **Jed Harris**, **Christina Winters Blaustein**, **Adam Burns**, and many others. On Saturday, miraculously, I (**Peter**) was able to lead **Robby Levy**, **Chris Lindstrom**, **John Felton**, **Dan Meyer**, **Rob (Kerchner) Zoeller**, **Silas Marshall**, **Bill Coddington**, and **Chris Morosky** (who was wearing a suit) from the reception at the president's house to Forth 'n Goal and back to our dorm without getting lost.

Before dinner on Saturday, **Charles "Mac" Macintosh**, **Aaron Tyler**, **Kristine Kraushaar**, **Deana Becker**, **Elizabeth Cassidy**, and **Lise Falaleev Miranowski** held court with Mac's dog outside of our dorm. **Jeff Trail** was seen returning from what seemed like an infinitely long bike ride around the same time. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 30th in five years.

—Class Correspondent: Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

2000

REUNION CLASS

It's been a quiet round for the Class of 2000. Perhaps everyone is saving their news for our upcoming Reunion, June 6–8? I'm really hoping to see you there and would love to hear from you before then. Otherwise, I'll just have to fill class notes with my own news, and I know you want to read about more than just little ol' me! I'm excited to share that my memoir, *One Tick Stopped the Clock*, came out through Legacy Book Press in September. I'm in the process of planning my book tour with events so far in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. Let me know if you'd like to schedule an event in your area, or remotely! Information about the book is available on my website: www.jennifercrystal.com.

—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (www.jennifercrystal.com).

2001

Kari Nygaard is still living in the Bay Area in California with her husband and two young sons. This is her 20th year teaching middle school English, and now she also runs a small business offering summer creative writing programs for teens and adults (www.creatorschoolca.com).

Peter Dixon writes, "I joined Columbia University last year as an associate professor of practice in negotiation and conflict resolution. I'm teaching classes on conflict resolution and social justice and working on research projects in Colombia and New York City. I was up in Midd last year to speak about my work with the Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation, where I also recently joined the board."

Congratulations to **Andrew Johnson**, who was inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in April. In addition to his successes in Nordic skiing in high school and at Midd, he skied in two Olympic Games, 2002 and 2006, and won four U.S. National Championships. He's the head Nordic coach at Middlebury for both men and women.

Emily Howe is an ecologist of aquatic environments for the Nature Conservancy in Washington State. She is part of a short film, *A Day in the Life,* which looks at the collaboration of Nature Conservancy scientists to provide information and work together to conserve and restore complex, dynamic habitats, such as Port Susan Bay Preserve, and keep them healthy in the face of climate change.

Jake Mnookin writes, "At a United World College (UWC) head's convening, we realized there was a strong contingent of people with a connection to Middlebury. So we took a photo!" You can see the photo on page 79. Jake is the director of partnerships and innovation for the Davis UWC Scholars Program.

—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).

2002

Pat and **Meg Kumpf Duffy** enjoyed an RV trip with their two sons to Yellowstone this past summer. A key highlight was a fabulous dinner at **Cary Costello**'s home in Bozeman, Mont., with **Evan Moppert** in attendance as well!

Steve Messinger checked in on behalf of his family, including wife Lauren, children Penelope (11) and Lucy (7), their cat (Oban), and two new kittens with adorable names—Franklin "Frankie" Fiddlesticks and Winnefred "Winnie" Fluffernutter. Five years ago, they moved to Beverly Farms, Mass. (on the "nawth shawah") and are enjoying spending as much time as possible at the beach, on the ocean, riding bikes, and out in the fresh air. Steve is coaching kids soccer and playing in a couple leagues himself as well. In the winter, you'll find them at Sugarloaf and you may catch Steve coaching kids in a weekend ski program. The Messingers would love to hear from you if you are north of Boston or up at Sugarloaf!

Hilary Johnson Gay and husband Andrew '00 moved their family to Baltimore (Stevenson, Md.) from Dover, Mass., this past summer. Hilary recently started a new role at T. Rowe Price and is looking forward to catching up with anyone in the D.C./Baltimore area.

Eamon Griffin wrote with fun news about meeting up with some classmates unexpectedly over the past two summers. He caught up with **Pace Ralli** on Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park and also met up with **David Seeley** at lacrosse tournaments on Long Island and in Massachusetts. At the tournament in Mass., he also had the good fortune of meeting up with **Derek Chicarilli**. He reports that everyone is doing well.

Please continue to send us your life updates: middlebury02@gmail.com. We hope to hear from everyone!

—Class Correspondents: Meg Roach Booth (megbooth5@gmail.com); Kara Leibel Evans (kblevans30@gmail.com).

2003

Elizabeth Del Rosario-Baker sent her first-ever class notes update, reporting that she's lived in North Carolina for more than a decade: "My husband and I decided to homeschool our children during the COVID lockdown, and it has become one of my greatest joys to have spent so much time learning together with them." She runs an events business, serves on two nonprofit boards, and is a member of a local PARC committee.

Andrew Forsyth married Jessica Potter in Frisco, Colo., on September 3, 2022. The wedding was attended by **Benjamin Rosenfield**, Meredith Giersch '04.5, Heather Gary Breslow '04, and **Martin Wesolowski.** The newlyweds live in Frisco with cat Sadie.

Carl Larson writes, "I am living in a run-down house in Jamaica Plain in Boston with my quilt-obsessed partner, too many bicycles, and a big garden. **Anne Callahan** lives with her partner and daughter two blocks away, so we've been enjoying frequent backyard picnics with them. After a decade in Portland, Ore., I'm glad to be back near family and old friends. I've been doing sustainable transportation planning for Boston University and just opened the Boston University Cycle Kitchen, a bicycling resource center for the BU community."

Timothy Perry was appointed criminal chief for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Justice. If anyone is interested in prosecuting in paradise, he is hiring! His wife, **Molly** (**FitzGerald**), is an assistant professor of history and geography at the University of the Virgin Islands. They write, "Anyone visiting St. Thomas or St. John this winter should reach out—we have two young girls, Lucy (9) and Zoey (19 mos.), and love sharing our islands. Stay warm this winter on the mainland!"

Jeremy Holiday was in Chicago for a rugby tournament with his team, the Madison (Wis.) Minotaurs, and met up with his former debate partner and recent Windy City transplant, **Lisa Jasinski.**

—Class Correspondents: Lisa Jasinski (lmjasinski@gmail.com); John Morgenstern (jdmorgens@gmail.com).

2004

—Class Correspondents: *Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (atheniarodney@gmail.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).*

2005

REUNION CLASS

Colin Meltzer met up with **Anywhere Sikochi** in September 2024 in Arlington, Mass., and they had a great time discussing and test-driving Colin's new entrepreneurial product, CheckIn AI, a conversational assessment platform powered by AI to help teachers quickly see what their students truly understand. After many years as a teacher, Colin is now running his own education technology business. Anywhere is currently on leave from Harvard Business School, where he has taught in the MBA program since 2016. He, his wife, and four children are spending the bulk of his leave traveling in Australia and New Zealand. Colin and Anywhere were joined by Frieda Violet Thaveethu '22. Frieda and Anywhere were connected in 2021 through the MiddMentors program.

Carmen Granda is a senior lecturer at Amherst College and has found success as an author and educator. Carmen's first book, *Retooling Study Abroad Digital Approaches to Linguistic and Cultural Immersion* (December 2023), aims to help educators recreate the study abroad experience through the use of technology. In 2023, she also received the Jeffrey B. Ferguson Memorial Teaching Prize at Amherst.

And now, some updates out of our beloved state of Vermont! **Ted King** is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of UnTapped, the sports nutrition company he cofounded during the heart of his cycling career. UnTapped uses organic maple syrup as its nutritional foundation and relies on only whole-food ingredients to deliver tasty flavors of energy packs, waffles, and drink mixes for anyone on the go. The full lineup is at www.untapped.cc. UnTapped is based in Williston—naturally, using Vermont maple syrup—and is a primary reason that Ted and his family moved to Vermont in 2018. It was fun for Ted to run into **Dan Smarg** while racing the Last Best Ride gravel race in Whitefish, Mont., this past summer. Dan runs a content creation business specializing in SEO strategy and was out that weekend shooting photography for the race. It appears Montana is the place to be! Brian McCurdy '03 helped bail Ted out of a pinch while racing Tour Divide in the summer of 2023. He's soaking up life with his wonderful family in Bozeman. Fellow Vermonter **Andy Rossmeissl** continues to lead the team at Faraday along with **Robbie Adler.** He and his wife, Sara Huddleston '09, recently built a house in the Middlebury area surrounded by Panther neighbors Heather Neuwirth Lovejoy '08, Amanda Warren '11, David Dolginow '09, and writer in residence emerita Julia Alvarez '71.

And not forgetting our former class correspondent: **Emma Sabiiti** spent the summer in Uganda, the Pearl of Africa, with family. The little ones Gabriella (6) and Jules (3) had a wonder-

Watch Party

Henry Flores '01 builds a community of collectors

Omega Speedmaster. Breitling Navitimer. 1665 Double Red Sea Dweller.

For the uninitiated, these sound like exotic brands, but of what? Jet skis, maybe, or models of yachts. In fact, they are wristwatches, three of well over a dozen belonging to Henry Flores '01, an avid watch collector and founder of the Classic Watch Club (CWC) in New York City. The club meets at Pier 76, home of Classic Car Club Manhattan, of which Flores is also a member.

Flores, who makes his living as a senior real estate manager for a major pharmaceutical company, began collecting watches when he fell in love with—and purchased—his first vintage watch in an airport duty-free shop in 2004. Interested in finding like-minded collectors and experts, he launched the CWC in 2019.

The pandemic put a temporary halt to the club's monthly face-to-face gatherings but opened up a new avenue—virtual meetings—that allowed the club to attract collectors from far beyond Manhattan. Now, with two meetings each month—one in person, one remote—CWC membership has grown to 300, with about 125 collectors from the New York area, the rest from around the world.

Flores has made some real-world friendships through these virtual meetings. In a 2023 interview on the website of retailer Watch Aficionado, Flores mentions taking a "bucket-list trip" to Geneva, Switzerland, with five club friends in April 2023; they went on private tours of several watchmakers' facilities and attended Watches and Wonder, an international trade show and celebration of fine watchmaking.

For people who don't recognize the names of classic watches or even know how to tell two watches apart, the CWC may sound like a different world. But its foundation is simple, and it's one that any collector will recognize. As Flores told Watch Aficionado, "For me, watch collecting is about community and making friendships."

ful time meeting cousins, aunts, and uncles and discovering more of their motherland on a trek out to Western Uganda on a safari.

Pat Zomer sent the sad news that his wife, **Alli** (**Williams**), died on July 3. "While at Midd, Alli ran track, and she remained close to several members of the track team following graduation. After a period in Boston, Alli moved to Minneapolis, eventually taking over the family childcare business with her sister, and we were married in August 2009. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 but lived the next six-and-a-half years to the fullest." Along with Pat, she is survived by children Charlie and June.

—Class Correspondents: Jasmin Johnson (johnson.jasmin@gmail.com), Anywhere Sikochi (asikochi@gmail.com).

2006

David Restrepo and Ezra Axelrod '08 have coproduced *Torah Tropical,* a documentary about a Colombian family of former evangelical Christians who converted to Orthodox Judaism. The story follows the family as they attempt to leave Colombia, where there are few Jews, and move to Israel to make aliyah. A powerful immigration story, it had its world premiere at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival this past summer.

—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com).

2007

Lindsey Seldin sent the news that three close '07 friends all had baby boys in 2024: **Lindsey**, **Stephanie Enemark Syriala**, and **Afifa Faisal**. She also included adorable photos of her son, Logan, Stephanie's son, Dean, and Afifa's son, Armin, in their Middlebury onesies!

Check out a classmate's wedding photo on page 85!

—Class Correspondent: N. Bhatia (middlebury2007@gmail.com).

2008

Antoine Gara and his wife Tiffany had a beautiful son, Nicholas, in July. Antoine has been named deputy deals and corporate finance editor at the *Financial Times*, where he is entering his fourth year covering private equity and the broader finance industry.

Music Row recently announced the 2024 In Charge list of Nashville's music industry decision makers and **Patch Culbertson** was included on the list. He is a senior VP/GM at Big Loud Records, where he oversees the day-to-day operations, commercial tactics, and creative development for the company's roster. As he gains recognition in the industry, he has also been honored as both a *Billboard* Indie Power Player and 40 Under 40 honoree.

Amelia Claringbould returned to Australia in 2015 to join the Australian government. After postings with the Australian foreign service to Los Angeles, Jordan, and Egypt, she returned to Canberra to work on Australia's COVID-19 response. She's now at the Treasury Dept., where she is finally using her Middlebury economics classes to support access to banking services in the Pacific. She looks after a foster cat named Boots and has started learning piano. She'd love to connect with any Middlebury folks nearby (aclaring@popbox.com).

—Class Correspondents: Laura Lee Mittelman (laurawhitneylee@gmail.com); JeeYeon Park (jeeyeonp@gmail.com).

2009

Angelika Ferguson has been working in the dorms at Keio Academy of New York since fall 2017. She writes, "This past summer, I had the opportunity to visit eight affiliated schools of Keio University (which my school is a part of) in Japan. In addition to being a Head of House (senior resident advisor), I am also now the dean of boarding, since September."

Avery Finch has been working as a teacher in Philadelphia for the last 10 years and sent this update: "I live with my partner and our two kids (!!), ages 4 and 1. We love visitors; come say hi if you're ever in Philly! I was sad to miss the 15-year Reunion but am really looking forward to the 20th and hope to see lots of you there."

Tarsi Dunlop has been in the Washington, D.C., area going on 15 years and is now working as a senior program officer at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) as part of the cities team. She is grateful to have wonderful Middlebury friends living in the area (**Ryan Kellett**, Emily Culp '11, **Kasima Brown Garst**, **Alexis Stangarone**) and being an honorary auntie to their children!

Katie Crecelius celebrated the birth of her daughter, Jessa, in 2023. She lives in Springfield, Va., with her husband, Evan, son Ryan (3), and pomsky dog Shadow, and she works as an attorney.

Nicole Conti returned to Middlebury to teach grant writing for the 2025 winter term. She has lived in Minneapolis since 2011, where she owns a home with her long-term partner, JaeLee Waldschmidt. After abandoning a PhD program, Nicole transitioned into nonprofit leadership, working as a director of grants and evaluation and owning her own grant and evaluation consultancy. This year, she completed a graduate certificate in program evaluation and a national Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) fellowship at the University of Minnesota. In her free time, Nicole lifts heavy weights, runs a long-running LGBTQ+ book club (which includes Christiana Martenson '08), and is currently exploring creative writing. Nicole travels regularly to see the true loves of her life, **Sarah Kirk** and **Leah Bevis**.

Finally, my (**Ryan**) update: Emily Culp '11 and I moved to Cambridge, Mass., for the 2024–25 school year. It's an honor to follow the long tradition of journalists doing the Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. I am grateful, too, to be simultaneously involved with the school's Berkman-Klein Center and the Rebooting Social Media program, where Middlebury's own Prof. Alison Stanger is a visiting fellow. I left Axios Media last September to make room for these big changes and skipped covering the presidential election for the first time since 2010. If you're in the Boston area, I'd love to reconnect during our stay here!

Check out a classmate's wedding photo on page 61.

—Class Correspondent: Ryan Kellett (ryan.kellett@gmail.com).

2010

REUNION CLASS

Jamie Mittelman is the founder and host of *Flame Bearers*, a storytelling platform for the stories of women Olympians and Paralympians. Through a podcast, now in its fourth season, videos, and live events, *Flame Bearers* gives women athletes the chance to share their trials and triumphs, discuss what life is like outside the Games, and bring unique perspectives to their stories.

—Class Correspondents: Alice Ford (alicemarieford@gmail.com); Oscar Loyo (loyo.oscar@gmail.com).

2011

Mariella Saavedra Carquin's debut book of poetry, *Maps You Can't Make,* is receiving accolades. Published by June Road Press, an independent book publisher founded and run by Sara Arnold, MA English '15, the book received a gold medal in the poetry category for the IPPY Awards and was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award in poetry. You can read a review of the book on middleburymagazine.com.

Earlier this year **Cordon Smart** joined law firm Fox Rothschild in Greensboro, N.C., as an associate in the environmental department. He advises clients on a range of transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters relating to renewable energy and energy generation as well as environmental compliance.

Check out a classmate's wedding photo on page 61!

—Class Correspondent: Sam Parnell (Midd2011@gmail.com).

2012

—Class Correspondents: Sara Cohen (srcohen90@gmail.com); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).

2013

Rachel Madding sent word that on September 30, 2023, she married Brian Gurka at Gardener Ranch in Carmel Valley, Calif. Check out a wedding photo on page 79.

—Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (eccburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterdi331@gmail.com).

PHOTOGRAPH BY HUBERT KOLKA

CLASS ACTS

2014

Comedian **Shannon Fiedler**, who created "Connecticut Girl" and went on to expand her repertoire with characters from other cities, had a debut comedy drop on YouTube on September 25 called *Thirty, Flirty & Crying*. Check it out!

—Class Correspondents: Jackie Breckenridge (jackiebreck@outlook.com); Emma Kitchen (m.emma.kitchen@gmail.com); Peter Mattson (petercmattson@gmail.com).

2015

REUNION CLASS

Remember that our 10th Reunion is June 6–8!

—Class Correspondent: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com.

2016

Check out a wedding photo on page 79!

—Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).

2017

Michael Brady and **Emily Goins**, our class agents, want to thank the 113 members of the Class of '17 who donated to Middlebury last year. Your generosity and commitment to Middlebury are deeply appreciated! Emily and Michael hope to continue improving our class participation this fiscal year to ensure the College empowers future generations of Midd Kids! Emily is currently a resident doctor in emergency medicine at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago.

—Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com).

2018

Hannah Habermann is the rural and tribal reporter for Wyoming Public Radio. She received the Pattie Layser Greater Yellowstone Creative Writing and Journalism Fellowship from the Wyoming Arts Council in 2021 and has taught backpacking and climbing courses throughout the West. She's also the cocreator of the podcast *Yonder Lies: Unpacking the Myths of Jackson Hole.*

In May, **Andrew Plotch** had a soft launch for his ice cream business, Odd Otter. He creates his own bases for his artisanal creations and produces many unique flavors like Strawberry Mint and Mexican Hot Chocolate, which he sells in pints and cones at community events around the Burlington, Vt., area. His main job is working remotely as a communication manager for the Natural Resources Defense Council, but on the side, he makes about 15 gallons of ice cream a week for his pop-up ice cream business.

—Class Correspondents: Georgia Grace Edwards (georgiagrace.edwards@gmail.com); Charlie Mitchell (charlie@tom.org); Hannah Pustejovsky (hannah.pustejovsky@gmail.com).

2019

Rowen Price sent this update: "In August, Jake Kerman '18.5 and I were married in beautiful southern California surrounded by Middlebury friends. We first met during my sophomore year when we both joined Chromatic Social House, and we have been together ever since! Now, we're living in the D.C. area with our dog."

2020

REUNION CLASS

Don't forget to put our 5th Reunion on your calendar for June 6–8!

—Class Correspondent: Katelan Newman (katelan.newman@gmail.com).

2021

Congratulations to **Monique Santoso**, who was awarded a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship to support her graduate studies at Stanford Univ. She is pursuing a PhD in communication at Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences. Congratulations also to **Lexie Massa**, who was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for Mexico.

In the summer of 2022, **Matteo Moretti** returned to the small village in Greece that he had visited throughout his life with his family, including his grandfather and grandmother who had immigrated from there to the U.S. His grandmother had died, and his grandfather was going back by himself. Matteo decided to film his grandfather to capture this new and difficult experience he was having. The result is the documentary *Cicada,* which has been selected for numerous film festivals, including the Middlebury New Filmmaker's Festival. It also won the Best Documentary Jury Award and Audience Award at NFFTY 2024 and the Audience Choice Award at the Made Here Film Festival 2024. Congratulations!

2022

Congratulations to **Sophia Bardetti**, who received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for Morocco, where she is following her passion for language learning and cross-cultural education.

2023

Two classmates received Fulbright Awards to teach English in other countries this year. **Claire Babbott-Bryan** has an English Teaching Assistantship for Mexico and is using her experience to build the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge she needs to be involved in community-based climate work as she was doing in California, collaborating with Mexican farmworkers. And **Kenta Togo** received an English Teaching Assistantship for Costa Rica, where he is immersing himself in the culture and growing as a Spanish speaker. Congratulations!

Raymond Chen studied in Monterey last year and earned a master's in nonproliferation and terrorism studies. Check out a photo of him on page 61 with some friends of his grandmother in Manchester, Vt.—Middlebury alums from the Classes of 1962 and 1963!

—Class Correspondent: Sara Massey (sara.f.massey@gmail.com).

2024

Welcome to the class notes! If anyone would like to serve as a class correspondent for the Class of 2024, please contact Sara Marshall at smarshal@middlebury.edu. It's a fun way to stay in touch with classmates!

CELEBRATIONS

1. Middlebury friends from the Class of 1981 convened at Villa Giara, the country inn owned by Stephen Croncota '80, which is located in the wine country of Piemonte in northern Italy: Kathy Leary McCarthy, Cynthia Strong, Stephen, Stacey Pogust Danziger, Elaine King Nickerson, and Susan Taylor.

2. When Hope Hayden Kelley '81 and her husband visited their son in Alaska, Hope had a chance to catch up with Alice Tower Knapp '81: Alice and Hope.

3. Many Middlebury friends gathered for the wedding of Nora Chan to Sam Jesse '07 on April 23, 2022, at Fleetwood Farm Winery in Leesburg, Va. Joining the couple (in front) in celebration included (all '07 unless noted) Clark Peterson '06, Emily Lisbon Peterson '06, Rebecca Brown-goehl Feinberg, Marco Casas, (second row) Daniel Feinberg, Nikitas Stamatopoulos, Patrick Leibach '06, Jay Yonamine, Jamie Henn, and Simran McKenna.

4. Former cross-country teammates and Class of 1995 members hiked in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and summited one of the Twin Sisters Peaks: Sean Kerwin, Jake Kritzer, Brendan Fitzsimons, Oliver Truog, and Zac Laidley. Missing from photo: John "Cisco" Heller.

5. In fall 2023 Middlebury friends and family celebrated a joint 90th birthday bash with Sue Heyer Byers '55 and Bruce Byers '55 (in front): Sisi Liu '18, Maggie Paine '79, Chris Byers '86, and Natalie Byers '27. Sadly, Bruce passed away on May 9, 2024.

CLASS ACTS

OBITUARIES

Due to a yearlong lapse in magazine publication, we are behind in publishing obituaries. We will be sending out a special In Memoriam PDF with obituaries via email this spring, so please watch your inbox for it.

1941

Janet Sutliffe Scilipoti, 95, of Quincy, Mass., on February 22, 2015. A Pi Beta Phi, she worked in the Personnel Dept. of the British Ministry of War Transport in NYC before joining the Naval Women's Reserve in 1943 and working in the supply corps. She was discharged as a lieutenant. She and husband Clinton had children Nina and Anthony. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Velma Francis '36.

1942

Dorothy Menard Bruce, 103, of Topsfield, Mass., on March 25, 2023. A member of Sigma Kappa, she taught French and Spanish in Mobile, Ala., and Massapequa, N.Y., and was a substitute teacher for Masconomet High School. She and her husband started Sterling Silver Flatware Matching Service in 1974, which she ran until she was 100. Predeceased by husband Philip, she is survived by daughters Judie and Janine, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1943

Lois Groben Gilmore, 100, of Harvard, Mass., on February 27, 2023. A Phi Mu, she worked for American Airlines during WWII. Later, she taught English, worked as a travel agent, and was a docent at the Fruitlands Museum. Predeceased by first husband Stanwood Johnson '42, second husband John Gilmore, and third husband William Doe, she is survived by children Lorin, Greg, and Christie, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1944

Kurt K. Klein, 94, of Chadron, Neb., on March 6, 2018. During WWII, he served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1946. A Kappa Delta Rho, he earned a BS in civil engineering from Case Western Reserve Univ. and worked 25 years in structural engineering. Moving to Nebraska, he and his wife ran a ranch, and he managed an engineering consultant office. He and wife Phyllis had children Keith and Leslie. Deceased Middlebury relatives include twin brother Robert '44.

Miriam Oaks Riukas, 96, of Hannibal, N.Y., on February 19, 2019. She earned a master's in French from Middlebury and a master's in library science from Syracuse Univ. She had a long career working in public libraries, retiring as the library director at Oxford (Pa.) Public Library.

1946

Benjamin L. Cohen, 98, of Dedham, Mass., on June 8, 2023. After graduation, he embarked on a 40-year career at S. Cohen and Sons, his family's furniture business. Predeceased by wife Paula, he is survived by daughter Marcia and husband Ken, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1947

Lois Southgate Badger, 97, of Kennebunkport, Maine, on April 28, 2023. She was an active volunteer while raising her children and enjoyed sailing with family on their sloop, *Sea Badger*. Moving to Jackson, N.H., she and her husband owned the Joe Jones Ski Shops and retired in 1990. Predeceased by husband Robert and son Jeffrey, she is survived by children Dana and Pamela, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

John A. Moriarity, 97, of Clemmons, N.C., on February 10, 2021. After earning his law degree from NYU School of Law, he worked as an attorney in Wantagh, N.Y. He also served as a Nassau County district court judge. Predeceased by wife Elizabeth and children Matthew and Lisa, he is survived by children Peter, John, Michael, and Katie, and six grandchildren.

1948

Shirley Davidson Fowler, 97, of Woodbury, N.J., on April 16, 2023. She taught many different subjects over the years, including high school French, English, science, social studies, and physical education, as well as kindergarten and second grade. For 10 years she was a school librarian. Predeceased by husband Donald '49, she is survived by children Elizabeth and James, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jane Drummond Hanlon, 96, of Manlius, N.Y., on May 24, 2023. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she completed a secretarial course at the Hickox School in Boston and worked at Bristol Myers in Syracuse. She was an active volunteer while raising her family. She and husband Donald, who predeceased her, had children Thomas '77, Kevin, Robert, and Margaret, and several grandchildren.

Rowena Brown Huber, 96, of Spicewood, Texas, on May 14, 2023. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she worked in the personnel office of the *Christian Science Monitor* after graduating. While raising her children, she was an active volunteer. She and husband Wade '48 had four children, Diane, Wade, Gail, and Lauren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Harry '22.

Beverly Boynton Kinsey, 96, of Forest Knolls, Calif., on June 17, 2023. A Pi Beta Phi, she worked several years as a saleswoman at Wick's Ski Shop in Wilmington, Del., and was an active volunteer in each community she lived in. She and husband Roy '45, who predeceased her, had two sons, David and Stephen.

1949

Barbara Myers White, 96, of Colchester, Vt., on May 3, 2023. For five years, she worked in NYC for Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. and North American Aviation. While raising her children, she was an active volunteer in her communities, including serving as president of the Nyack (N.Y.) Library board. Predeceased by husband John and brother Neil '51, she is survived by children David '77 and Marilyn '79 and their families.

1950

Bernard Z. Friedlander, 95, of Madison, Wis., on February 22, 2023. After working in publishing, he earned an MS and PhD in psychology from Case Western Reserve Univ. He taught at various universities before joining the Univ. of Hartford where he had a 25-year career and retired as research professor emeritus of human development. Predeceased by first wife Hannah and second wife Mary, he is survived by children Matthew, John, and Julia, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Lura Hallett Smith, 95, of Southbury, Conn., on March 16, 2023. A member of Phi Mu, she worked in NYC after college, for Marine Midland Bank and Time, Inc. In 1978, she earned a Master of Divinity and worked in social ministries. Predeceased by husband David, she is survived by children David, Deborah, Patricia, Scott, Jennifer, and Bruce, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include parents Bruce '10 and Clara Engel Hallett '12.

Hedwig Tafelmaier Stark, 93, of New Providence, N.J., on February 24, 2023. An Alpha Xi Delta, she worked as a Spanish translator with a bank in NYC after graduation. After raising her children, she became an office assistant and receptionist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, N.J., retiring in 1993. Predeceased by husband Egon, she is survived by children Peter and Laura, and four grandchildren.

Claire Dufault Wilson, 94, of Wellesley, Mass., on February 27, 2023. After earning her MSW from Simmons Graduate School of Social Work, she had a long career with Mystic Valley Mental Health Center, retiring in 1999 after 31 years of service. Predeceased by son Oliver, she is survived by children Carrie and Morgan, and one granddaughter.

1951

Robert C. DeLaney, 93, of Lancaster, Pa., on April 15, 2023. After serving in the Navy for three years, he earned his MBA from Harvard Business School and joined the First Boston Corp. of NYC, which began his 35-year career in the investment business. Retiring in 1991, he and his wife moved to New Haven, Vt., and spent many years near Middlebury. Predeceased by son Bill, he is survived by wife Adrienne (Littlewood) '57, son John, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother John '45 and several members of his family.

1952

Anne S. Brosius, 91, of San Francisco, Calif., on May 17, 2022. After two years at Middlebury, she transferred to Northwestern Univ. and earned her BS. She worked several years for the *Christian Science Monitor* then joined the State Department's Foreign Service and had tours of duty in Tunisia, India, and England. She then worked many years at the Institute of International Education in NYC.

Edward F. McAleer Jr., 93, of Berwyn, Pa., on March 7, 2023. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, he served in the Army in Germany, then had a long career as a manufacturer sales representative. Predeceased by wife Sandy, he is survived by children Deb, Ted, and Stu, and four grandchildren.

1954

Robert M. Black Jr., 90, of Fredericksburg, Va., on May 19, 2023. A Chi Psi at Middlebury, he began his lifelong career in education as an elementary and middle school teacher. Earning a master's in administration from Newark (N.J.) State College and Doctor of Education from Rutgers Univ., he served as principal at the James Caldwell School in Springfield, N.J., for 26 years. He is survived by wife Marilyn, children Robert, Patricia, Jennifer, and Alison, and six grandchildren.

Arthur T. Curtis, 89, of Lecanto, Fla., on October 14, 2021. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he had a 39-year career as a purchasing agent with Ralston Purina Co., retiring in 1992 as a commodities trader. He and his wife were active volunteers with Compassion International, a Christian child sponsorship organization. Predeceased by first wife Janet, he is survived by wife Shirley, children Thomas, Kathleen, and Mark, and two grandchildren.

Leah Wallat Odden, 90, of Seminole, Fla., on May 28, 2023. With an MA in teaching from Yale Univ., she taught French at Conard High School in West Hartford, Conn., then taught in other East Coast high schools before moving to Florida in 1973 and teaching many years at Seminole High School, retiring as chair of the Foreign Language Dept. Predeceased by husband Evan, she is survived by children Miles and Danielle, three grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara Totten Perkins, 90, of Midlothian, Va., on January 29, 2023. After teaching kindergarten, she was an active volunteer while raising her children. She served for 10 years as a hospice volunteer. She and husband Bob '54 had children Deborah, Christopher, Harle, and Jeffrey, and several grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Albert '28 and aunt Louise Boorsch '30.

Janet Buchanan Smith, 90, of Ontario, N.Y., on May 20, 2023. A Sigma Kappa, she studied music theory and piano at Eastman School of Music and taught piano at home. In 1992 she earned a master's in English literature and taught at a community college. Predeceased by first husband Don, she is survived by husband Bob, children Andrew, Jennifer, Margaret, Amanda, Jonathan, and Matthew, three stepchildren, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1955

Jonathan Brand, 90, of Exeter, N.H., on June 4, 2023. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he had a long career as an advertising copywriter, especially for J. Walter Thompson. An accomplished photographer, he studied with well-known artists in NYC and enjoyed taking photos of everyday life, which he often exhibited in shows, and many of which appeared in *Lower East and Upper West: New York City Photographs, 1957–68*. He is survived by wife Monika, daughters Jenny and Ulrika, and three grandchildren.

George H. Fernald, 88, of East Conway, N.H., on April 29, 2023. He taught four years of high school French before studying at the Univ. of Paris on a Fulbright Scholarship and earning a master's in French from Middlebury. He had a 48-year career as a teacher of French and Spanish at Milton Academy in Milton, Mass. In 2008 his room was christened the George H. Fernald classroom. He is survived by sisters Glenna and Emily.

Janet Beem Frost, 89, of Macon, Ga., on February 18, 2023. After raising her sons, she began her career in 1973 as the first executive director of Volunteer Macon, a newly established nonprofit organization whose mission was to provide a way for individuals to serve community needs through volunteering. For many years, she did weekly radio and TV appearances for the cause. Predeceased by husband Brant, she is survived by sons Brant IV, Fred, Ben, and Chris, and 14 grandchildren.

David L. McKissock, 90, of Fair Haven, N.J., on June 2, 2023. A Theta Chi, he served two years in the Navy. In 1957 he joined American Flange and Manufacturer Co. and worked in sales and management for 32 years before retiring in 1989. He is survived by wife Diana (Parish) '56, sons David and Christopher, three grandsons, and one great-granddaughter.

Henry H. Van Vleck, 90, of Granby, Conn., on April 23, 2023. After serving in the Army in Germany, he earned his MBA from Columbia Business School in 1959. He then worked for two years at the Boston Safe Deposit Co. before changing careers and teaching elementary school, mainly in West Hartford, Conn. He is survived by wife Gail, children Valerie '90 and Christopher, and three grandsons.

Judith Mitchell Ward, 90, of Colville, Wash., on February 16, 2023. She was president of her family business, Waldon Inc., and served on the board of her library and local visiting nurse assoc. Husband Jeff Ward predeceased her.

1956

Helen Starr Ackerman, 89, of Ithaca, N.Y., on March 23, 2023. A Sigma Kappa who graduated Phi Beta Kappa, she earned her MS in chemistry from American Univ. and taught AP chemistry at the Blake School in Minneapolis for 14 years. She and husband John '55, who predeceased her, had two children, Beth '79 and Andrew.

Sally Smith Hackett, 89, of Shelburne, Vt., on June 19, 2023. After attending Middlebury, she earned her BS in education from UVM. Committed to her community, she served as a volunteer on many boards, including as VP of Vermont State United Ways. Dedicated to bettering healthcare systems, she served on Medical Center Hospital of Vermont boards and was appointed by the governor as a public member of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. Predeceased by husband Fred, she is survived by children Stephen and Elizabeth '84, and five grandchildren, including Kate '16 and Emily '18 Robinson. Deceased Middlebury relatives include mother Alla Fitzgerald Smith '29.

John A. Hammond, 88, of Kingwood, Texas, on May 4, 2023. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he worked for British Overseas Airways before having a long career with Continental Airlines, for many years as a sales manager, and retiring from United Airlines. He was also a longtime ski instructor. He is survived by daughter Deborah Souve and three grandsons.

Patricia Hunter Highley, 88, of Middlebury, Vt., on May 24, 2023. A member of Sigma Kappa, she earned her master's in library science from Long Island Univ. and worked as a librarian at Millbrook and Poughkeepsie High Schools. She then studied massage therapy and started a massage business in Bristol, Vt. She also ran the Coach House Bed and Breakfast. She is survived by daughters Deborah '80, Susan '83, and Carolyn '86, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include parents Allan '24 and Barbara (Browning) '23, and sister Joan Kent '51.

Kenneth F. Johnson, 89, of Camden, Maine, on May 18, 2023. A member of Delta Upsilon, he earned an MBA from the Univ. of Chicago in 1961. He had a long career in healthcare consulting, spending many years at Ernst and Ernst, Arthur Young and Co., and various hospitals. He is survived by wife Sandra, children Mark, Kristen, and Kimberly, and four grandchildren.

John B. Webber, 89, of Rutland, Vt., on April 19, 2023. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he earned his law degree from Boston Univ. and practiced law for many years in Rutland. He served with numerous professional, legal associations and was the recipient of several awards. Predeceased by wife Kathleen, he is survived by daughter Meighan, husband Andrew, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include father Christopher '29, and uncle and aunt Payson '24 and Mary Williams Webber '23 (all deceased), and brother Christopher '67.

1957

Gail Parsell Beckett, 87, of Middlebury, Vt., on June 6, 2023. In 1957, she worked for Union Carbide in NYC in their newly formed data processing dept. With a master's in education from Long Island Univ., she taught math at Manhasset (N.Y.) High School and eventually became the Computer Science Dept. chair, retiring in 1983. She is survived by husband Peter, children David, Susan '82, and Jim, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Lawrence R. Curtis, 87, of Skillman, N.J., on May 9, 2023. An Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned his Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. He began service as a minister in the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church and served in churches in northeastern New York and in Vermont. In 1977 he earned a Doctor of Ministry from Drew Univ. and in 1991 the Troy Conference awarded him the Denman Evangelism Award. He retired in 2001. He is survived by wife Helen (Dickey) '58, children Catherine, Cynthia, and Daniel '87, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Patricia Langley Finn, 87, of Santa Barbara, Calif., on April 6, 2023. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she worked as a buyer trainee at Filene's in Boston before working at MIT for eight years in personnel administration. In California, she was a founding member of Postpartum Education for Parents and worked for Para Publishing for 15 years. Predeceased by husband Ron, she is survived by daughter Andrea and son Evan.

Wayne G. Reilly, 88, of Roanoke, Va., on May 29, 2023. A Delta Upsilon, he earned a master's from Trinity College and a PhD in political science from the Univ. of Pittsburgh. He then began a long academic career teaching political science, including 33 years at Hollins Univ. in Roanoke. He is survived by wife Pam (Clark) '57, sons Stephen '86 and Peter, and four grandchildren.

George R. Sims, 88, of Vero Beach, Fla., on January 20, 2023. A Theta Chi, he had a long career in market research and planning, working many years for Koppers Company before becoming self-employed.

1958

Stephanie Eaton, 86, of Meredith, N.H., on February 16, 2023. She earned a master's in English from UNH, a medical lab tech degree from Norwich Univ., and a JD from Franklin Pierce Law Center. She taught high school English and coached skiing, worked as a lab technician, and served as executive director of several New Hampshire agencies, including Human Resources and the Council on Aging. She served for six terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Predeceased by son Michels and sister Kelly, she is survived by brother Gordon '62 and his family, including Chris '99, and Kelly's family.

Richard D. Fusco, 88, of Burlington, Mass., on May 9, 2023. After Middlebury, he was signed to play football with the New York Giants but was injured during preseason. He then earned a master's in education at Bridgewater State College and a master's in math from Michigan State Univ. He had a long career in education, teaching high school math, serving as a vice principal, and coaching football. He is survived by wife Margaret (Dobis), children Ronald, David, and Christina, and seven grandchildren.

1959

A. Peter Barranco Jr., 85, of Montpelier, Vt., on May 10, 2023. After earning a BS in engineering from Hofstra Univ., he joined Sperry Rand Corp. in Honolulu, Hawaii, working on torpedo fire control systems on Navy submarines. Moving to Vermont, he spent his career as a civil engineer, working for the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Dam Safety Program. He is survived by wife Jane, sons David and John, and two grandsons.

Noelle Caseley Locke, 85, of Cataumet, Mass., on March 26, 2023. A Pi Beta Phi, she cared deeply about the environment and was an active member of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. While living in Lancaster, Pa., she held leadership roles in a number of community organizations. She was survived by husband William '58, who died November 2, 2023. She is survived by children Clayton, Deborah, Steven, and Jennifer '96, and four grandchildren.

Shirley Manchester McDowell, 86, of Scarborough, Maine, on May 22, 2023. She worked for several years for the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., and Boston. Moving to Scarborough, she opened Shirley's Hallmark Card and Gift Store in 1992 and added a shop in Falmouth, operating both for 25 years. Predeceased by husband Lester '59, she is survived by sons Steven and Eric, and four grandchildren.

Ailene Kane Rogers, 85, of Atlanta, Ga., on May 18, 2023. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she earned an MS in biology from American Univ. in 1963 and had a long career in education, most notably at National Cathedral School for 21 years. In 1998 she earned a master's in environmental biology at George Mason Univ. and ran a water quality logging program on Long Island, N.Y. Predeceased by first husband Lee and son Daniel, and partner Steve Andrews, she is survived by children Ruth, John, and Helen, and four grandchildren, including Alec Rogers '20.

1960

Ann E. Bialkowsky, 81, of Snowmass, Colo., on July 12, 2020. She married Richard Rosbeck '61, who died in Vietnam in 1966. She then married Harry Baumann and worked as a manager for the Shadowbrooks, a resort condominium at Snowmass at Aspen. She and Richard had daughters Deborah and Karin, and she and Harry had daughter Julie.

Gail Smith Bieger, 84, of Wassenaar, Netherlands, on May 26, 2023. A member of Theta Chi Omega, she earned her master's in astronomy from Leiden Univ. in Holland. For many years she worked as a technical and medical translator in the Netherlands. She and husband Robert had two daughters, Jacqueline and Joan. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Frederick '37.

Lucille Frontini Boyle, 84, of Seattle, Wash., on March 28, 2023. She taught French at Cohasset (Mass.) High School and French and Latin

IN MEMORIAM

George "Tom" Lawson

MAY 17, 1937–AUGUST 20, 2024

Tom Lawson, a beloved Middlebury College coach and athletic director credited with building the athletic program into one of the most successful in the country, died in Middlebury on August 20, 2024, with his family by his side. He was 87 years old.

Born on May 17, 1937, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Lawson attended St. Johnsbury Academy and the University of Vermont before receiving his bachelor's degree in 1961 from Springfield College. He began his career at Craftsbury (Vt.) Academy and was then hired by Proctor (Vt.) High School, where he coached the boys' soccer team to a 52-game winning streak and four state championships. His boys' basketball teams won three state titles in his final four years as head coach.

He arrived at Middlebury in 1969 as the men's soccer coach and became the men's basketball coach the following year. His soccer teams posted a 49-26-8 record in eight years, including benchmark seasons in 1972 (9-0-1) and 1973 (11-0-1). In basketball, Lawson won more than 100 games, including a record 17-win season in 1974–75, resulting in the College's first postseason bid. He was named to the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006, and in 2007, received the Eastern College Athletic Conference's highest honor—the James Lynah Award for distinguished achievement. He was also inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and into Middlebury's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017.

Lawson served as athletic director for 20 years, beginning in 1977, and was described as a visionary by colleagues and fellow athletic directors when it came to adding state-of-the-art athletic facilities. Under his leadership, Middlebury added new venues for football, field hockey, soccer, ice hockey, swimming, lacrosse, and track and field, while greatly enhancing existing facilities. He is credited with advocating for these upgrades, coupled with the addition of new athletic programs, key coaching hires, and the recruitment of top student-athletes.

During his almost 30 years at the College, Lawson also became known as a staunch advocate for the advancement of women's athletics, leading efforts to add seven women's intercollegiate sports during his tenure. He is credited with helping start one of the first women's Division III ice hockey leagues in the nation.

His most enduring contribution, however, was establishing a culture of excellence and integrity on and off the field, which is his legacy. Predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Phyllis, and his cherished daughter, Dawn, he is survived by his loving children, Karen, Pam '88, and Michael, and grandchildren Erik, Anders, and Elisabeth Ryden, Samantha, Matthew, and Jason Re, and Hannah '16 and Connor '20 Quinn.

at Belmont (Mass.) Junior High School. When she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in her 70s, she participated in research studies at the Univ. of Washington to help advance knowledge about the disease. Predeceased by husband Tom, she is survived by son Pat, wife Tracy, and two grandchildren.

Alisoun Macpherson Hodges, 83, of Campton, N.H., on February 26, 2023. She taught English, French, and Spanish, was a town clerk for Holderness, N.H., and had a long career in the field of conservation, including with the U.S. Forest Service. She is survived by daughters Leslie '84 and Hillary and stepchildren.

Edwin F. Taylor, 84, of Manlius, N.Y., on May 14, 2023. A Sigma Epsilon, he served in the Army as a lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Div. He earned his Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and served in several churches before he became the minister of DeWitt (N.Y.) Community Church in 1981. He is survived by wife Louise, children Jennifer, Peter, Andrew, Joshua, and Richard, and 13 grandchildren.

1961

Arthur M. Cottrell III, 87, of Westerly, R.I., on March 16, 2023. A member of Chi Psi, he had a long career in banking, working for Hartford National Bank and Trust, Fleet National Bank, and the Washington Trust Co., where he served as a trust officer and VP until retiring in 1997. He is survived by wife Charlotte, children Max '86, Sophie, and Lydia, and five grandchildren.

Doris A. Herbst, 84, of Burlington, Vt., on June 9, 2023. A member of Mortar Board, she joined the Peace Corps and served in Senegal. She studied for a certificate in teaching at the Univ. of Colorado in Boulder and spent her entire career in education. Predeceased by son Hollis, she is survived by son Josh and brother David.

Anne Tracy, 83, of Meriden, N.H., on February 17, 2023. Moving to her ancestral farm in Cornish, N.H., in 1965, she raised and bred horses, goats, sheep, donkeys, dogs, and cats. She was also a freelance writer and photographer, especially at Green Mountain Horse Assoc. in Woodstock, Vt. She is survived by sister Barbara Ross.

1962

Michael L. Black, 83, of Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 10, 2023. A member of Zeta Psi, he earned a master's in 1963 and a PhD in 1967 from Columbia Univ. He had a 40-year career as a professor of English at Baruch College of the City Univ. of New York, where his scholarly work centered on Washington Irving. He is survived by wife Nancy, children Jessica and Wade, and four grandchildren.

W. Gordon Van Nes, 82, of Chester, Conn., on February 17, 2023. A member of Delta Upsilon, he earned his medical degree from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in 1968. He served as the medical director of the emergency dept. at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn., for 25 years, then was the medical director of Backus Hospital in Norwich, Conn. He is survived by wife Claudia, children Jason and Whitney, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Nick '66.

1963

Jane M. Corcoran, 81, of Greenwich, Conn., on March 13, 2023. A Pi Beta Phi, she began a career in computer technology at Bell Labs, working for five years. After raising her daughters in Connecticut, and for four years in Brussels, Belgium, she returned to her career and worked at IBM until her retirement in 2003. She is survived by daughters Kathryn, MA English '95 and Heather '93, and former husband Vic Micati '62.

Mary Leslie Hanscom, 81, of Park City, Utah, on April 17, 2023. After receiving a master's in elementary education from Case Western Reserve Univ., she taught at Bellefaire School for several years. She was an active volunteer while raising her sons. She is survived by husband Dave '63, sons Brett '92 and Greg '95, and five grandchildren, including Max Hanscom '23. Deceased Middlebury relatives include mother Katherine (Allen) '38 and aunt Margaret Leslie Hall '38.

Edward G. Hixson Jr., 81, of Upper St. Regis Lake, N.Y., on February 19, 2023. Earning a medical degree from the Univ. of Vermont, he moved to Saranac Lake, N.Y., and practiced surgery with the Adirondack Surgical Group and Adirondack Health, bringing the practice of sports medicine to the area He was a physician with the U.S. Nordic Ski Team and at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, where he was instrumental during the 1980 Winter Olympics. He is survived by wife Karen, children Eric, Peter, Heidi, Edward, and Christopher, stepsons Sam and Dave Bockius '83, and 11 grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Peter '71.

William A. Potter, 82, of Alexandria, Va., on April 7, 2023. A Theta Chi, he served in the Army then joined the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. in NYC. He subsequently opened his own insurance business, Potter and Company, in Greenwich, Conn. He is survived by children Laurel, William, and Tiffany.

Davis D. Van Winkle, 81, of Raymond, Maine, and Sedona, Ariz., on March 25, 2023. A Delta Upsilon, he served in the Army in Vietnam. He then worked at various schools and colleges as a teacher, guidance counselor, and soccer coach and served as director of the girls' summer camp, Wohelo—Luther Gulick Camps. He is survived by wife Louise (Gulick) '64, and children Mark '91 and Heidi '94. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Keith '64.

1964

Mario A. (Lando) Ahmad, 79, of Olney, Md., in 2021. A member of Delta Upsilon, he earned his JD from Columbia Univ. and worked for IBM's legal dept. Over the years he worked for social agencies, helping minorities, and worked as a CPA for Watson, Rice. In the 1970s, he joined the Nation of Islam, studied the Qur'an, took a pilgrimage to Mecca, and embraced the Islamic faith.

Daniel L. Brown, 81, of Gilford, N.H., on February 22, 2023. An Alpha Tau Omega, he served in the Army in Germany and France. He had a long career managing manufacturing organizations, including the Kendall Co. in the United Kingdom and Victoriaville Hockey Stick Co. in Quebec. For several years he owned Bancroft Sporting Goods Co. in Rhode Island. He retired from L.W. Packard and Co. as director of human resources. He was predeceased by wife Carolyn.

James W. Doane, 81, of Westlake Village, Calif., on May 31, 2023. A member of Delta Upsilon, he earned his PhD in economics from Tufts Univ. After teaching economics at the college level, he worked in energy research and development at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Solar Energy Research Institute, and Science Applications Inc. Predeceased by son Randell, he is survived by wife MaryKay, children Rebecca and Jeremy, two stepchildren, and nine grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Fred '66.

Ronald J. Lacharite, 80, of Norwood, Mass., on June 14, 2023. He worked in sales for Tabs Products and Uarco Inc. He played a variety of instruments with local orchestras. Predeceased by wife Elizabeth (Falk) '66, he is survived by children Magda and Aaron, one granddaughter, and his partner of 30 years, Geraldine Elion.

1965

John W. Blodgett, 82, of Montpelier, Vt., on May 20, 2023. He spent his career working for the Vemont State Dept. of Transportation and created the computer program that received and organized data from highway sensors tracking the flow of traffic on Vermont roads. He was also lead guitarist with Mike and the Ravens. He is survived by sister Sally, brother Stephen, and extended family.

Judith Sheldon Mills, 80, of Clifton Park, N.Y., on April 25, 2023. A Theta Chi Omega, she worked for 10 years for AT&T Long Lines as a programmer and systems analyst. She then had a long career as a computer systems analyst, working for Ortho Pharmaceutical and the Vermont State Information Systems. Predeceased by husband Rick '66, she is survived by sister Cathy Sandoz.

Charles M. Rogers, 79, of Proctor, Vt., on March 14, 2023. He had a 50-year career working for New England Telephone Co., being named top salesman in Vermont several times. He also helped at his wife's family's resort on Lake Bomoseen, Vt. Predeceased by son David '91, he is survived by wife Rosemary, children Michele, Karen '93, and Matthew, and five grandchildren.

1966

Kerry Lee Campbell, 78, of Cambridge, Mass., on March 10, 2023. She had a long career in business, which included working for New England Telephone; as a securities analyst and portfolio manager;

IN MEMORIAM

David C. Colander

NOVEMBER 16, 1947–DECEMBER 4, 2023

David Colander, Christian A. Johnson Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics, died on December 4, 2023, in Houston, Texas. He was 76 years old. During his 40-year career at Middlebury, Colander established himself as a world-renowned economist known for his passion for teaching, his mentoring of countless students and faculty members, and his best-selling textbooks in the field of economics.

He was born in Jamestown, New York, and attended Columbia University, where he earned a master's degree in philosophy and a PhD in economics. He arrived at Middlebury in 1982 as the Christian A. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics and quickly established himself as a highly productive writer and influential teacher with a reputation for challenging students and faculty members.

"David was a thought leader in the economics profession and a valued mentor and friend in the department," said Jessica Holmes, professor of economics. "His breadth of knowledge, intellectual curiosity, and willingness to turn a critical eye on the discipline pushed his students, his colleagues, and the entire profession forward. His textbooks trained countless undergraduate students in the economic way of thinking."

Colander served as chair of the Economics Department from 2002 to 2005 and 2006 to 2012 and received the Distinguished College Professor title in 2013. He served as vice president and president of the Eastern Economic Association and vice president of the History of Economic Thought Society. He was also on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *Eastern Economic Journal*, and *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Over his career, he authored, coauthored, or edited 40 books and more than 100 articles.

Colander also taught at Columbia University, Vassar College, the University of Miami, and Princeton University and was a consultant to Time-Life Films and the U.S. Congress. He served as Brookings Policy Fellow and a Visiting Scholar at Nuffield College, Oxford. In 2013, Colander and then-Middlebury President Ron Liebowitz developed the Professors of the Practice program at Middlebury to provide students a "liberal arts plus" education. Colander remained head of the program until his retirement in 2022.

Students remember Colander fondly, not only as a teacher but as a friend. He hired Umar Serajuddin '96 one summer when he couldn't afford to return home to Bangladesh. "He paid me $10 an hour, which was a lot at that time," said Serajuddin. "But what I remember most is how he treated me like a member of his family. He became like a father figure to me."

Colander is survived by wife Patrice (Peterson), two sons, Zachary and Kasey, and two granddaughters, Adelaide and Amelia. Also surviving are two stepsons, Mark '95 and Nathan Briggs and two step-grandsons, Sebastian and Landon.

as COO of a small business; as an engineer/analyst for Computer Technology Associates; and as a senior analyst for Unisys.

1967

Ford W. Cole, 78, of Cheshire, Conn., on March 31, 2023. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he served in the Navy in Vietnam and Washington, D.C., before joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent. After 29 years he retired and taught at Hopkins School, and with a master's in criminal justice, served as an adjunct instructor at Sacred Heart Univ. He is survived by wife Jackie, sons Matthew and Derek, and four grandchildren.

Jane Johnston McCabe, 77, of Ludlow, England, on May 8, 2023. She earned a master's in English from Columbia Univ. and a PhD in English from Tufts Univ. She taught at several institutions, including the Univ. of Hawaii, the Univ. of Massachusetts, and Wellesley College. She eventually moved to England with her family and lived there until she died.

1968

Elizabeth Eames Roebling, 76, of Lake Worth, Fla., on April 17, 2023. She held various jobs over the years including selling ads and writing copy for an African American news outlet and *Western North Carolina Woman*. She was an activist and environmentalist and her last job was as a trilingual journalist with InterPress Service, covering the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

1969

Eric A. Nelson, 76, of Falls Church, Va., on May 18, 2023. Earning a master's in organic chemistry at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison as well as a teaching certificate, he taught chemistry, biology, and physics at Robinson, Jefferson, and Annandale High Schools. He is survived by wife Kathy, children Amanda, Daniel, and Shannon, and one grandchild. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Wayne '40.

1972

John T. Flickinger, 72, of Shelburne, Vt., on February 3, 2023. He was a member of Delta Upsilon and played football and lacrosse. With an MBA from the Johnson School of Business at Cornell Univ., he had a successful career in banking, serving as vice president at Citibank in NYC and Rochester, N.Y., and at the National Bank of Middlebury. He is survived by wife Cally, daughters Kristina and Sarah, and three grandchildren.

1973

Phillip M. Pope, 72, of Lakeland, Fla., on March 16, 2023. Senior year, among other accolades, he received the Mobil Award, which honors the Most Valuable Player in Vermont football. He had a long career as a geologist, working throughout New England, Florida, and the Bahamas, including as part of the Big Dig in Boston. He is survived by wife Barbara-Jean, sons Brian and Kevin, and three grandchildren.

1974

James G. Ennis, 62, of Arlington, Mass., on July 7, 2015. With a PhD in social psychology from Harvard Univ., he was a professor and scholar at several universities before joining Tufts Univ. in 1983, where he was a professor in the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology for many years. He is survived by wife Gloria Garfunkel and sons Noah and Samuel.

1975

Zoe Schurz Keck, 70, of Boyertown, Pa., on March 15, 2023. For many years she helped run the family farm, Hawk Shadow Farm, where they raised veal calves. She then earned her teaching degree and taught German and history at Boyertown High School from 2003 to 2014. She is survived by husband Lindsey '74, children Kate, Maggie, Ben, Andy, Molly, and Johanna, and seven grandchildren.

1977

Dean R. Corren, 67, of Burlington, Vt., on May 2, 2023. With a master's focused in energy science from NYU, he served as the chief technology officer for Verdant Power in NYC and led the engineering team in installing tidal energy turbines he designed in the East River to supply electricity to ConEd NY. Living in Vermont, he was a Burlington Electric Dept. commissioner, helped found the Prgressive Party, and served four terms in the House of Representatives. He is survived by wife Cindy Wolkin, son Sidney, stepdaughters Laurel, Angela, and Rachel, and four grandchildren.

1978

Nancy L. Hartshorn, 66, of Bethlehem, N.H., on April 28, 2023. She was a translator and teacher of German before working many years as a paralegal for Michael Conklin. In 1997, she opened her business, Omega Title and Closing. Predeceased by husband Charles Ripley, she is survived by son Christopher. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Raymond '49.

1979

Susan Mochi Hecklau, 65, of Clinton, N.Y., on April 1, 2023. She taught elementary school in Connecticut and New York and in 1991 earned an MS in elementary education from SUNY Cortland. She retired from teaching in 2021. She is survived by husband John '79, children Emily, Sarah, and Sam, and two grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include grandparents Durward '22 and Madelene Fletcher Yates '23, and parents Don '51 and Jane (Yates) '51.

1980

Julia Ladds Clauss, 65, of Rockville, Md., on May 6, 2023. She was a bed linens buyer for L.L. Berger Co. in Buffalo and worked in the fashion industry in NYC. She began a career in decorative painting in 1990, working primarily in restaurants and luxury homes in Buffalo before returning to NYC and continuing work as an artist. She is survived by children Adelaide and Dieter, and their father, Eric Clauss. Middlebury relatives include sister Helen Ladds Marlette '81.

1983

Mark J. Mulvaney, 63, of Dover, N.H., on April 9, 2023. Earning an MBA from Northeastern Univ., he had a long career in sales and marketing for a variety of companies, including Nixdorf Computer Corp., Kodak Health Imaging, and Paxermed. He is survived by son William and former wife Mary Hunter Pynchon.

1984

Peter H. Bond, 61, of Lords Valley, Pa., on February 13, 2023. Earning a master's in teaching from Brown Univ. in 1986, he was a history teacher at Lincoln-Sudbury (Mass.) Regional High School and then at various high schools in New Jersey, including Randolph High School from which he retired. He is survived by children Marcus, Josephine, Owen, Celia, Kevin, and Linus. Middlebury relatives include father Renton '51 (deceased), mother Roberta (Rey) '52, and brother Doug '77.

John T. Jensen, 62, of Ballston Spa, N.Y., on April 2, 2023. Earning an MFA from the Weitzman School of Design at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, he specialized in landscape painting. He also employed his art in doing landscaping, mainly around Philadelphia. While living in Alaska, he did archaeological work in remote villages. He is survived by siblings Anne, Peter, and David, and one niece.

1985

Roland B. Ninomiya, 60, of Arlington, Va., on April 16, 2023. After earning his JD from George Mason Univ., he worked at Schmeltzer, Aptaker & Shepard, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and then as a staff attorney for the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation in D.C. for 15 years. He is survived by partner Jason Della Sala.

1989

John S. Ogden, 56, of Landgrove, Vt., on June 27, 2023. After running his construction company, J. Ogden Builders, for 10 years in Seattle, he owned a woodworking business in southern Vermont that specialized in highly custom cabinetry, furniture, and millwork. He also worked for Vermont Integrated Architecture. He is survived by wife Andrea, children Katharine, Ben, and Charlotte '23, sister Mary '86, and half-brothers Shep and Sam.

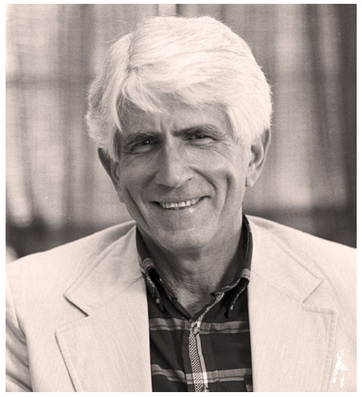
1991

P. Tuckerman Esty Jr., 56, of Seattle, Wash., on April 8, 2023. After finishing a woodworking apprenticeship in Bridport, Vt., he began a career as a master woodworker on boats, eventually opening his all-inclusive boat improvement and maintenance business, Yachtopia, in Seattle. He is survived by partner Anne Krier, his mother, and brother and sister and their families.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward S. Perry

JUNE 4, 1937–JUNE 10, 2024



Edward "Ted" S. Perry, Fletcher Professor Emeritus of the Arts, died on June 10, 2024, in Middlebury, Vermont. He was 87 years old. With an extensive résumé in film, Perry arrived at the College in the 1970s to start a film studies program and was instrumental in its evolution into the Department of Film and Media Culture.

Perry was born June 4, 1937, and grew up in New Orleans, where he began going to the movies with his father at an early age and, at nine years old, bought himself a 16 mm camera and cheap projector so he could make home movies. He earned his bachelor's degree in drama and English from Baylor University in 1960 and a master's and PhD in speech and dramatic art in 1966 and 1968, respectively, from the University of Iowa. He then embarked on his impressive career.

"Before he was persuaded to come to Middlebury, Ted's extraordinary odyssey included positions at the University of Iowa, the University of Texas at Austin, the Department of Cinema Studies at New York University, and the Museum of Modern Art—all places that were indisputably at the center of the action, incubators of talent and serious accomplishment," said friend Stephen Donadio, John Hamilton Fulton Professor Emeritus of Humanities.

Perry joined the Middlebury faculty in 1978 as a professor of theatre and dean of the arts and humanities, after serving as the director of the Department of Film at the Museum of Modern Art and the Visiting Henry Luce Professor at Harvard University. He quickly made his impact as he sought to rectify the fact that the College had no offerings in the field of cinema and not the means to develop students' interests in learning about or creating films. Among his many endeavors, Perry implemented film courses with talented faculty, acquired state-of-the-art film equipment, had Dana Auditorium reconfigured to be able to project 35 mm films, and brought in major figures from the film industry to speak.

Over the years he served in many important teaching and administrative positions at the College and held prestigious positions in the film industry, including as trustee and trustee emeritus for the American Film Institute, where he also served as visiting professor and jury member. Perry also produced numerous books, articles, and plays during his career. In 2001, he published his autobiography, *My Reel Story*, in which he examined, in a series of trips back to his native New Orleans, his childhood and family relationships and the impact they had on his life's work.

Perry was survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Miriam, who died January 13. Survivors include his twin sons, John and Thad; daughter Megan Perry Smith '92; daughter Melissa Perry Fountain '88, and son-in-law Michael Fountain; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

CLASS ACTS

1992

Janet Phelps Heywood, 52, of Washington, D.C., on February 14, 2023. She earned her master's in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and joined the Central Intelligence Agency as an intelligence analyst, a role she held for 25 years. She is survived by husband John '92 and children Anika and Dominic '28.

1993

John B. McQuiston, 52, of Rye Brook, N.Y., on June 26, 2023. With an MBA from Columbia Univ., he had a successful career in banking, first with Citibank, then Wells Fargo in NYC, where he was managing director and global head of sales for global receivables and trade finance. Predeceased by his father and brother, he is survived by his mother and two sisters.

2000

Paul S. Dome, 44, of Cambridge, Mass., on May 2, 2023. Living near Boston, he worked for several businesses over the years, including Circle.com, Arnold Worldwide, Bose Corp., and Small Army. He also had a passion for theater and performed often.

2002

David A. Livingston, 43, of Duluth, Minn., on February 1, 2023. At Middlebury he enjoyed helping to run WRMC and organizing concerts. He worked for many years at Ed Barbo's Columbia Clothing. Predeceased by mother Marlis, he is survived by father and stepmom, Thomas and Deb, two brothers, and two stepsiblings.

2009

Benjamin L. Liang, 36, of Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 4, 2023. He had a career in advertising technology and founded a company, Cliques Ads. Recently he was serving as group product manager of Klaviyo, a marketing automation platform. He is survived by wife Melina Ward '09, his parents, and two sisters.

Andrew T. Ward, 36, of Grafton, N.Y., on March 21, 2023. After attending Pratt Institute School of Information, he moved to the Albany, N.Y., area and was a public librarian in Voorheesville and Troy. He is survived by wife Victoria Buonanno and children Ida and Mae.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

1953

Faith Augur McCarthy, 95, MA Spanish, of Northford, Conn., on February 16, 2023. She spent most of her teaching career as a Spanish teacher and chair of the Foreign Language Dept. at Branford (Conn.) High School. She was also an instructor in Spanish at Albertus Magnus College.

1955

Rita Goldberg, 87, MA Spanish, of Canton, N.Y., on June 17, 2021. She was a longtime professor at St. Lawrence Univ., holding the Charles A. Dana Professorship of Modern Languages and Literatures and retiring as professor emerita of Spanish in 2001.

1959

Edward A. Franco, 90, MA Spanish, of Minneapolis, Minn., on March 22, 2023. He taught Spanish at Grosse Pointe (Mich.) South High School for 28 years, serving as chair of the Foreign Language Dept. for 25 years. In retirement, he taught middle school English at St. Juliana's School in Detroit.

1960

Stephanie Butan Profaci, 85, MA Spanish, of Chestertown, Md., on January 31, 2023. She and her husband ran horse farms wherever they lived, and she taught English as a second language, primarily to Spanish speakers.

Richard C. Reitz, 91, MA English, of Mesa, Ariz., on March 29, 2023. He had a long career as an English teacher, division chair, and administrator at Casper College in Casper, Wyo.

1961

Daryl Olson Bayer, 84, MA French, of Omaha, Neb., on January 19, 2023. For 20 years, she taught French at Central High School in Omaha and eventually was promoted to head of the Foreign Language Dept.

James F. Drane, 93, MA Spanish, of Edinboro, Pa., on April 17, 2023. He served as the Russell B. Roth Professor of Philosophy and Clinical Bioethics at Edinboro Univ., retiring with emeritus status.

1962

David R. Morgan, 87, MA French, of Sanford, Maine, on February 20, 2023. He taught French at the college level for 11 years then became an antiques dealer.

1963

Sr. Barbara Craig, 90, MA Spanish, of Dallas, Texas, on December 20, 2022. A member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, she was a faculty member at several colleges and served on the Commission for Human Rights for Guatemala and Mexico.

1964

Jay S. Hoar, 89, MA English, of Farmington, Maine, on April 12, 2023. He had a 33-year career at the Univ. of Maine in Farmington, teaching a variety of English courses and retiring with emeritus status.

Margaret Brown York, 82, MA Spanish, of Stamford, Conn., on December 19, 2022. Her career in education spanned over 40 years, mainly in Connecticut, teaching high school Spanish and later English as a second language.

1966

William F. Bogart, 90, MA German, of Blossburg, Pa., on March 2, 2023. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. He taught German and French at Mansfield Univ. for 25 years, serving as chair of the Dept. of Modern Languages for 19 years.

June Hoffman Dorion, 100, MA French, of Rutland, Vt., on January 20, 2023. She taught several years at Fair Haven (Vt.) High School before joining the faculty at Castleton Univ., where she taught French and served as head of the Language Dept. She retired in 1977 as professor emerita.

Fr. Jonathan F. Fischer, 88, MA German, of Collegeville, Minn., on January 11, 2023. A member of the Order of Saint Benedict, his assignments spanned administration, education, and pastoral ministry, as well as manuscript microfilming as field director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library in Germany and Portugal.

Sr. St. Claude Lenox, 92, MA Spanish, of Brentwood, N.Y., on February 1, 2023. After entering the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1949, she had a long career in education, including teaching high school Spanish in New York high schools and serving as the director of religious education in St. Camillus Parish in Rockaway.

1967

Joseph G. Reish, 78, MA French, of Portage, Mich., on March 5, 2023. He worked at Western Michigan Univ. for 45 years, serving as a professor of French, dean of the Lee Honors College, and dean of University Libraries. In 1994 he was awarded the title of Knight in the Ordre des Palmes academiques by the prime minister of France, and in 2015 was promoted to the rank of Officer.

1969

Paul R. Grover, 83, MA German, of Belvidere, Ill., on December 14, 2022. He began the German Dept. at Harmony (Minn.) High School then began the German Dept. at Belvidere (Ill.) High School, where he taught for 27 years.

John W. McMullan, 80, MA Spanish, of Salisbury, Conn., on January 3, 2021. He was a retired Spanish teacher from Hotchkiss School and Millbrook School, and a textbook author.

1973

Sr. Maureen K. Griffin, 89, MLitt English, of Everett, Mass., on December 19, 2022. A member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, she was a teacher and librarian in the Boston area and taught English as a second language at universities in Japan.

1974

Meredith Owen Atkinson, 75, MA English, of Norwell, Mass., on January 18, 2023. She was a respected teacher of English in various schools and spent many years at Norwell High School, where she was the head of the English Dept.

Kathy Schaefer Logsdon, 71, MA Spanish, of Urbandale, Iowa, on January 24, 2023. She worked as a senior research associate at Pioneer Hi-bred International, retiring in 2015 after 40 years.

1975

Justyna Steuer Carlson, 78, MA Spanish, of North Adams, Mass., on March 7, 2023. She had a long career in education, including as a language coordinator and department supervisor at Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vt. She was also an adjunct Spanish professor at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Ronald S. Sobel, 75, MA Spanish, of Portland, Ore., on April 18, 2023. He had a long career teaching Spanish, coaching, and serving in the administration at Catlin Gabel School in Portland.

1977

Barbara Homer Meyer, 72, MA Spanish, of Toms River, N.J., on March 18, 2023. She taught Spanish at Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey for 14 years then taught at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., for 22 years before retiring in 2013.

1980

Patrick J. Henaghan, 66, MA Spanish, of Medford, Mass., on April 10, 2023. He taught at St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Mass., for 34 years and served as chair of the Dept. of Foreign Languages.

1981

Kent J. Ahern, 69, MA Spanish, of Fort Pierce, Fla., on February 21, 2023. He was a high school Spanish teacher for almost 40 years, including 20 years at the St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, Fla.

1983

Tamara M. Royal, 63, MA Spanish, of Granby, Mass., on January 31, 2023. She worked at Atlas Copco Compressors in Holyoke, Mass., with her father and also as a travel agent for Carroll Travel and Sanditz Travel.

1987

Rory S. Clark, 60, MA French, of Lake Saint Louis, Mo., on April 28, 2023. He had a long career with the U.S. Center for World Mission, serving many years as managing editor of the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*.

1998

Suzanne W. Zeleznik, 76, MA Spanish, of Penn Valley, Pa., on January 22, 2023. She taught high school English and French at various schools, then joined the Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, Pa., where she taught French and Spanish for 31 years.

2000

Ingrid Hillhouse Moore, 48, MA French, of Henrico, Va., on March 20, 2023. She taught at the Potomac School, Flint Hill School, and Colorado Academy before becoming the Lower School director at the Steward School in Richmond, Va.

2015

Robert W. Partnoy, 91, MA English, of Lubbock, Texas, on February 7, 2023. He earned a law degree from the Chicago School of Law and practiced as a broadcasting attorney in NYC.

STAFF

Beverly Dragon DeGray, 86, of Salisbury, Vt., on September 10, 2024. In 1957, she joined husband Rodney as part of Middlebury's food service staff, and in 1960, she became the manager of the Crest Room in Proctor Hall. During the next 40 years, she made lifelong connections with students, who would often visit her when back on campus after graduating. Following retirement, she worked as a cashier at the College bookstore from 2003 to 2017, and worked several years as an exam monitor as well. In 1995, the Student Government Association honored her and her husband with the creation of the annual Rodney and Beverly DeGray Staff Appreciation Award. Predeceased by husband Rodney and grandson Jeremiah Warner, she is survived by daughters Kim and Tae, and two grandchildren.

Sheldon G. Sax, 76, of Cornwall, Vt., on August 8, 2024. He graduated from the Univ. of Toronto and later obtained a master's from Simon Fraser Univ. After building acoustic guitars for a living, he joined the College staff in 1984 as a visiting instructor in economics, then became assistant director of academic computing services, and later assistant director of user servers. In 1996, he was named director of instructional technology, a position he held until retirement. He also taught and was a staff member for several summers at Bread Loaf School of English and taught winter term classes. He was an anchor of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research. He is survived by wife Peggy, sons Peter and Jordan, and four grandchildren.

HIRSUTE PURSUIT
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IT WAS THERE PLAIN AS DAY, BUT NO ONE SAW THE IMPLICATIONS. NOT HIS PARENTS, NOT HIS TEACHERS, NOT HIS HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.
HE'S A GREAT KID!
HAPPY!
CHEERFUL!
LOVES TO WATCH "L.A. LAW."
SAYS HE WANTS TO BE A LAWYER.
THERE WERE LOTS OF HAPPY KIDS IN CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS, BUT HE WAS SOMETHING MORE.
YOUNG TOMMY DUBREUIL ('90) WAS JOLLY.
IT DIDN'T SHOW ON APTITUDE TESTS. HE DIDN'T PUT IT ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS OR RESUMES.
IT WASN'T A FACTOR WHEN COACH MICKEY HEINECKEN RECRUITED HIM TO PLAY FOOTBALL AT MIDDLEBURY.
BUT IT DID ENHANCE TOM'S JOYFUL IMMERSION IN STUDENT LIFE. HE LOVED MIDDLEBURY AND MADE A NUMBER OF LIFELONG FRIENDS.
HE ALSO FOUND MENTORS—TWO IN PARTICULAR—DEAN OF STUDENTS ANN HANSON AND DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE FRANK KELLEY, WHOSE INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE ALTERED HIS CAREER PLANS FROM LAW TO STUDENT AFFAIRS.
AND THAT'S WHAT HE DID, AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS FOR 34 YEARS, ENDING UP AS PENN STATE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, LITTLE REALIZING THAT WHAT HE'D THOUGHT WAS HIS LIFE'S WORK WAS MERELY PREPARATION FOR HIS TRUE DESTINY.
PENN STATE
WE'RE PLANNING A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ALUMNI AND THEIR CHILDREN...
SAID A PENN STATE COLLEAGUE ONE DAY IN 2018.
...AND WE NEED SOMEONE TO PLAY SANTA.
IMMEDIATELY, EVERYONE KNEW THE MAN FOR THE JOB WAS TOM. HE HAD THE BUILD, FOR SURE, BUT MORE THAN THAT...
...HE HAD THE JOLLINESS!
I'LL DO IT! I PLAYED SANTA YEARS AGO AT MY SON'S DAYCARE...
...WITH A FAKE BEARD, AND I LOVED IT!
BUT THIS TIME I'LL GROW ONE FOR REAL!
IN THAT INSTANT, A CHANGE CAME OVER TOM. A CLARITY, A CONVICTION, AND A TWINKLE IN HIS EYES!
TOM PLAYED SANTA AT THAT PARTY AND NEVER LOOKED BACK. HE WAS TOO GOOD AT IT AND IT WAS TOO MUCH FUN TO NOT GO PRO.
EARNING DIPLOMAS FROM TWO SANTA-TRAINING SCHOOLS, TOM PURSUED AN AMBITIOUS MARKETING CAMPAIGN, BOOKING MORE THAN 60 EVENTS A SEASON.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. A REAL BEARD.
AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS, COUNTRY CLUBS, PHOTO SHOOTS, AND PRIVATE HOME VISITS.
HE BECAME SANTA TOM OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, THE CHRISTMAS CITY.
THEN, DURING COVID, THE ONLY CHRISTMAS-RELATED STORE IN BETHLEHEM WENT OUT OF BUSINESS.
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
SAID TOM'S WIFE LISA.
YES, TERRIBLE! BUT I HAVE AN IDEA!
TOGETHER, TOM AND LISA RESEARCHED THE RETAIL BUSINESS, FOUND A PERFECT LOCATION, AND, IN 2024, OPENED UP DEAR SANTA..., A YEAR-ROUND CHRISTMAS STORE ON MAIN STREET IN HISTORIC BETHLEHEM WITH ITS VERY OWN FULL-TIME SANTA...
Dear Santa...
...REAL-BEARDED, FULLY ACCREDITED AND GENUINELY JOLLY!
HO-HO-HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MiddMoment
IDEAS OF OUR DAY
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